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THE TIMES

Golden days are
over for
the banks, page 19

Poll shows 73% of Ulster workers oppose Paisley strike

A general strike called through the Northern Ireland by the United Ulster Action Committee, whose leaders include the Rev Ian Paisley, was launched at midnight amid growing tension and uncertainty over the outcome. An opinion poll taken at the weekend showed that 73 per cent of the

Moves to stop intimidation

On Christopher Walker
After eight years of violence, the crisis in Northern Ireland reached one of its most dangerous points with the launch at midnight of a general strike by extreme loyalists in the face of opposition from a section of the population. The next 48 hours will provide much-needed evidence of the will of the public to go on its normal daily life in the face of loyalist demands for the closure of all but essential services.

All-party backing for Mr Mason

High Noon
Lancaster Correspondent
Vish leaders of all parties in Commons united behind Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday described the United Ulster Action Council's attempt to bring Northern Ireland to a standstill as an "economically disastrous and socially divisive move."

Lottery by council causes a utter

Michael Horsell
The east Kent reports of Mr. Ramage and Broadbent's alleged "phoney" yesterday as the first town in Kent to set up a lottery in Britain were on sale.

Decision for Chile in Beagle Channel case

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent
A court of arbitration has decided in favour of Chile in the long-standing dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of the continent.

President gives his first on-the-record newspaper interview to 'Europa' correspondents Mr Carter urges W Europe to defeat communist challenge

From Fred Emery
Washington
President Carter, on the eve of the Downing Street and Nato summit, today states that he relies on Europeans to defeat communists at the polls by "making the system work" and getting democratic governments to deliver the goods.

'Make democratic system work and stimulate economies of free world', he says on eve of Downing St summit.

Mr Carter suggests that the United States will help, together with other "strong" countries, by providing "some stimulus" for the economies of the rest of the free world.

deadlock but no increase in the arms race. Regarding Zaire, Mr Carter, while restating that the United States will not become militarily involved overseas "unless our security were involved", says that Americans "honour and respect and appreciate" actions by France, Morocco and Egypt in helping President Mobutu's regime to resist invasion.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Times and its three Continental partners in Europa monthly—this first on-the-record meeting with any newspaper—Mr Carter also states that he will speak, with the allies, "a renewed commitment" to Nato, and joint improvements in alliance defences.

The President discloses that the United States continued to send Zaire "ammunition" among other supplies, which is a departure from the formal American insistence that it is sending Zaire only "non-lethal" assistance.

By last night 15,200 troops were stationed in the province, the highest total since June, 1974. In addition the first extra patrols of the part-time Ulster Defence Regiment were out in central Belfast.

Mr Nixon emphasizes a point in his interview with David Frost. The first part will be on American television tomorrow. Report, page 6.

Ekofisk oil slick is nearly gone

Scavenger, May 2.—The oil slick from the eight-day Ekofisk Bravo blow-out had "virtually disappeared" today, officials said here. But a political storm was blowing up in Norway over the Government's implementation of oil industry safety regulations.

Smith election threat over split in party

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, May 2
Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, said today his bargaining position had been weakened by the split in the ruling Rhodesian Front and he might call a general election to settle the dispute.

Labour worried by SNP threat

Folling takes place today in the Scottish district council elections and the action of political observers is fixed on the performance of the Scottish National Party. The party is concentrating its attack on Labour seats in central Scotland, and Labour officials are anxious about the safety of some of their traditional strongholds.

Petrol duty move by Liberals

Petrol prices would fall if a Liberal amendment to the Finance Bill succeeds. The amendment would stop the Government collecting its extra duty on petrol after August 5. The Government would not have to repay extra excise duty collected since March 25.

Exam qualification

A record number of school-leavers gained an examination qualification in 1974-75, according to figures from the Department of Education and Science. Four fifths of all school-leavers gained at least one graded GCE or CSE result.

Nairobi editor quits

The editor-in-chief of the Daily Nation in Nairobi has resigned after a disagreement with the Aga Khan, the newspaper's main shareholder. He alleges that the Aga Khan attempted to interfere with editorial policy.

Egyptians deported

The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram reported in Cairo that Libya had deported 1,545 Egyptians in the past four days. It said Tripoli had informed Cairo airport that daily flights between the two countries are to be reduced from 15 to eight.

On other pages

Features, pages 12 and 14
Lord Wiggles on the Criminal Law Bill; Raymond Fletcher finds a group of workmen with true British spirit; Bernard Levin looks at the law and the Post Office; Sarah Leigh and Anthony Steen discuss immigration.

Two TUC leaders express cautious support for phase 3

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Support for a third phase of pay restraint was expressed yesterday by Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, and Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Mr Scanlon indicated that he favoured a continuation of income policy provided certain conditions were met.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Scanlon wants minimum percentage increase for all, plus free bargaining

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Eastbourne

A pay restraint programme combining some bargaining freedom with a norm for wage and salary increase over the next year was proposed yesterday by Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Opening the policy-making conference of the dominant engineering section of the AUEW, he pleaded with delegates to allow him to continue to participate in the TUC Government talks on phase three. He gave a warning that the Government's continuation in office was at stake.

The moderate majority of the 52 members of the national committee meeting in Eastbourne have drawn up a compromise resolution closely reflecting Mr Scanlon's views and are guardedly confident they will get it through, thus securing the backing of Britain's second largest union for continuation of the social contract.

Left-wingers are equally confident that the conference will pronounce against any more pay curbs. If they get their way, Mr Scanlon will have to withdraw from the talks.

Mr Scanlon's terms for a deal amount practically to a repudiation of pay restraint in all but name. His principal concern appears to be the avoidance of a damaging public split with the Government.

Outlining his programme, Mr Scanlon said: "There are certain aspects of remuneration on which we must be completely free to negotiate. Given that we could negotiate a minimum percentage increase applicable to all workers and, preferably, with some further tax concessions, we must retain certain aspects of our total wage remuneration to be determined by free collective bargaining."

He made the following points:

1. Restoration of differentials at all levels is an absolute prerequisite on any understanding with the Government must be in real, not just monetary terms.
2. Remuneration for flexibility should also be determined in free



The Rev Ian Paisley and other leaders of the United Ulster Action Council praying, before their press conference yesterday, for the success of their "indefinite" general strike, which started at midnight.

TUC chief appeals for continued pay pact

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, lent his support to the social contract yesterday but commented that the Government must not take the unions' good will for granted.

His message to the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers conference at Scarborough included a strong defence of the TUC's general pact and an appeal to the unions to support a third phase of income policy.

He said a return to collective bargaining must not mean going back to wage claims of 25 and 30 per cent. Some groups were unable to win such claims. "Are our memories so short that we can look back to 1974 and say those were the good old days?" he asked. "Do we need an action reply to show we are not?"

In Portlough, Mid Glamorgan, Mr Emyln Williams, president of the South Wales miners and a member of the Labour Party executive, urged a return to free collective bargaining. He called for at least £100 a week for coalface workers and accused the Government of not keeping its side of the social contract.

Mr Williams predicted that there would be involved in a struggle not of the seeking in the months ahead. The Government had failed to maintain living standards, he told the National Union of Mineworkers South Wales area conference.

Civil servants say 'No' to wage restraint

From Tim Jones
Labour Reporter
Southport

Delegates representing more than 200,000 civil servants decided effectively yesterday that wage restraint must end in July.

By an overwhelming majority the conference at Southport of the Civil and Public Services Association, which represents the lowest-paid white-collar civil servants, decided to revert to its former bargaining structure when phase two ends.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the union's general secretary, said after the vote: "The Government has been given its chance but it has failed." Although many union leaders might be willing to give the Government another chance, he was convinced that their members favoured an end to pay restrictions.

In his address to the conference, he said: "We are against a stage three and positively for a return to the Civil Service national pay agreement." That is a device whereby salaries are related to those in comparable industries.

Mr Thomas said the union was not departing from the decision of last year's TUC congress to support a planned return to free collective bargaining.

He was highly critical of the possible formula that have been projected for a third phase of income policy. Insistence on preserving large differentials was a strange way of promoting egalitarianism, he suggested.

"It is one thing to say that all the trade union movement really wants to protect and promote the interests of the lower-paid, it is inevitable that there must be a shift in traditional differentials."

The average pay of the thousand delegates at the conference was £47 before deductions.

Mr Thomas rejected the concept of "kitty bargaining" on the grounds that it would divide the union movement.

In the election for the union's presidency the controversial right-winger Mrs Kate Losinska failed in her attempt to unseat Mr Leonard Lever, who enjoys Broad Left support.

Mr Lever's 99,307 votes were against Mrs Losinska's 95,822. Mr Michael McGrath came third, with 12,581.

Soldier is cleared of killing girl

Private Michael Williams, aged 24, of The Third Parachute Regiment, was cleared at Belfast City Commission yesterday of the manslaughter of Majella O'Hare, aged 12, who was shot dead as she walked to confession in a South Armagh church last August.

Mr Justice Gibson said he accepted Private Williams's evidence that there was a gunman near the scene where the girl was with friends. Private Williams had been charged with the manslaughter of the girl.

The judge said: "I have come to the conclusion that there was probably a gunman and that the accused saw him raise his gun to the firing position and that each of them opened fire almost simultaneously. The gunman made good his escape in the confusion."

It was an emergency and Private Williams had had to make a snap decision. He found the charges of recklessness and manslaughter at the time of the shooting. The judge said he did not accept the suggestion that he discharged his sub-machine gun by accident.

Paisley threat to defy picket ban

Continued from page 1

leaders of the strike at Stormont yesterday. Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, said firmly that it was not industrial. For that reason, "people posing as pickets to intimidate workers would be acting outside the law."

That point was eagerly seized upon by the Rev Ian Paisley, who drove straight to a crowded press conference in an hotel ballroom. He would be deliberately defying the ban on picketing today, he said. "I shall be taking up this challenge to see whether picketing is legal or illegal."

Government officials later said that the final decision on legality would be in the hands of the security force commanders.

At his press conference Mr Paisley gave details of the planned disruption. Although he was flanked by 16 members of the action council, and despite the leadership's hectoring tone, reporters had the impression that there is still considerable doubt about support.

Much of the loyalists' inactivity was directed at the press and broadcasting authorities, who were accused of playing up opposition to the strike. But little evidence was given about

key sectors of industry, where the protest had already been "welcomed."

While the leaders made emotional and often heated calls to all loyalists to back the campaign, Mr Paisley said that workers in the Ulster Defence Association sat silently in the back of the room. Mr Andrew ("Andy") Tyrre, the UDA commander, pledged the support of 15,000 paramilitary members in Belfast alone.

Some details of the strike plans remained contradictory as the leaders did their best to disguise obvious uncertainty about its eventual effectiveness. They denied that there would be intimidation and said that workers in essential services would be given identity cards to enable them to carry on.

Mr James Smyth, chairman of the Ulster Workers' Council, which organized the 1974 strike, said: "Mr Mason is preparing for a bloodbath here tomorrow. My advice to everyone not engaged in essential services is to stay indoors." Funerals, weddings, and tele-communications were essential services, he said.

Demanding a complete closure of shops and businesses today Mr Smyth said food shops would be allowed to open during the afternoon for the rest of the week. Power stations would be allowed to continue operating if the Army did not attempt to interfere.

The first strike closure came at the Ulster Museum in Belfast yesterday when 45 members of the staff walked out after an advertisement supporting the strike had been removed from a notice board.

Minister's warning: Mr Mulley, the Secretary of State for Defence, said last night to Radio Telefís Éireann that the Army could not guarantee to continue all essential services because it did not have the 40,000 men it needed. (Our Dublin Correspondent writes.)

Mr Mulley said: "We cannot immunize a community from trouble if it is bringing on itself. If there is a breakdown at essential services the responsibility must rest on those who caused the strike."

"We cannot let Northern Ireland just feel that it can do what it likes and the British Army will always bail it out, because that is not the situation."

Terrorists charged: Forty-three people have been charged with terrorist offences in Northern Ireland in the past seven days, the police announced yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Liberals table amendment to stop 5p duty on petrol

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

The Liberals have tabled an amendment to the Finance Bill which, if approved, would stop the Government collecting the extra 5p excise duty on petrol it imposed in the Budget.

Under the Liberal proposal, which is due to be discussed next Monday, the Government would not have to pay back the extra duty collected since March 29, Budget Day. It would merely stop accepting the cash after August 5.

Such an arrangement would enable the Liberals to keep their promise to prevent an increase in the duty without becoming entangled in the administrative difficulties of repaying duty.

There is no sign that the Government is prepared to meet the Liberals' demand. The Prime Minister is thought likely to meet Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, on the matter.

If the Government forces the issue and loses the vote, the Liberals have said that they will not support an increase of 3p on a pint of beer or any similar impost that would be needed to raise the same amount of revenue, £300m in a full year.

Our Political Staff writes: Last night the Liberals deserted the Government in a Commons vote on rural transport, but without effect.

Mr Shore outlines allocation of first £57m to halt inner-city decline

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Distribution of aid worth £57m was announced yesterday by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, as part of the Government's plan to aid Britain's inner cities.

It is the first instalment of £100m for construction work over the next two years in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and will go to six areas including London, which will receive £24m.

Mr Shore's announcement involved the "partnership" authorities for Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester-Salford, Docklands and Lambeth, which he had invited to suggest programmes of construction works in accordance with the Government's intentions.

Explaining the inner-city proposals, Mr Shore said last month that the Government was offering a partnership with the worst affected inner areas in an attempt to reverse the decline in the cities.

According to the Government, the programmes of building in Birmingham of up to 11,000, Liverpool 11,000, Manchester-Salford 11,000, Docklands in the Greater London area 17,000, the London borough of Lambeth 15,000, and the Inner London Education Authority for Docklands and Lambeth 12,000.

The appropriate health authorities will be asked to take part, and the Secretary of State for Education will be in touch with the ILEA.

Further programmes costing £26m will be sought in other inner city areas of England. Mr Shore said. The balance of £17m will go to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over the next two years.

Sir Reg Goodwin, leader of the Greater London Council, said the fact that a quarter of the distribution was for London was encouraging. That, added to the £100m for the £25m for Docklands and £6m to aid industry, would accelerate efforts to regenerate the inner areas of London.

In addition, the Government's aid for inner areas will increase from £30m to £125m in the next two years. Details of the programme will be given in a White Paper expected in the next few weeks.

Sir Stanley Yapp, leader of West Midlands County Council, said he regarded the £11m as "launching allocation" for Birmingham.

Mr Norman Morris, leader of the Labour-controlled Manchester City Council, described the allocation of £11m to Manchester and its neighbouring city of Salford as "a first gesture. It showed that the Government meant business over the regeneration of city

centres, but he emphasized that more would be done later in the year when details were known of the working of the partnership agreements between the Government and cities."

Mr John Hamilton, Labour leader of Liverpool City Council, said: "I am quite happy with this as a beginning. The use to which it would be put had not been decided. I hope it will enable us to get some development of industry and housing off the ground quickly."

Cynicism attacked: Mr Michael Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on the environment, attacked the announcement as a "cynical attempt to buy votes in Labour's heartland" (the Press Association reports).

Mr Shore had chosen "the eve of the county council elections" to announce details of expenditure that have already been announced.

Girl in blackmail plot case changes plea

Anita Sasin, aged 20, one of five defendants in the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa blackmail plot trial at the Central Criminal Court, changed her plea yesterday to guilty on a conspiracy charge.

Miss Sasin, of Worples Road, Wimbledon, who had denied all the charges against her, admitted conspiring with Fouad Hussain Abu Kamil and others unknown between July, 1975, and February last year to demand money with menaces with a view to gain for Mr Kamil. Judge McKie, QC, ordered all other counts against Miss Sasin to be left on the file and not proceeded with.

The trial continues today.

Top Whitehall training to copy France

By Peter Hennessey

The training of senior civil servants is to undergo thorough reorganization along French lines as soon as the money can be found.

Sir Douglas Allen, head of the Home Civil Service, told the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure yesterday that he had been impressed by the best practices of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris. He favoured a longer period of training, broader in scope than that provided in Britain.

The committee also disclosed inadvertently that it has asked the Prime Minister in private session for his views on splitting the Treasury. In his evidence, Sir Douglas said he had not

talked to Mr Callaghan about the Treasury. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, added: "We have."

The performance of Whitehall's future "fliers" at the Civil Service College will be awarded a mark and will count towards their future promotion. Instruction at the college will be interspersed with direct experience gained in a variety of jobs in central and local government and the public, and possibly the private sector.

Executive officers will receive special training to enable them to compete more effectively with administration trainees, the chief entry grade at the moment for the higher Civil Service.

Sir Douglas said better opportunities must be provided for the increasing number of graduates entering the Civil Service as executive officers.

Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham, West, chairman of the committee, would not confirm that Mr Callaghan had replied to their questions on the Treasury. The Prime Minister's views were not disclosed, but it is highly unlikely that he is considering breaking up the Treasury before there is a general election.

Sir Douglas told the committee there was a strong case for reorganizing the Exchequer and Audit Department to provide an efficiency audit on government operations on behalf of Parliament.

Weather forecast and recordings



Stricter control of Commons questions planned

By Our Political Staff

A proposal to bring Commons questions to the Prime Minister under stricter control is made in a report from the Select Committee on Procedure. It is suggested that the Speaker should enforce "stricter rules of relevance on supplementary questions arising from indirect questions to the Prime Minister."

The Prime Minister has undertaken to answer more questions that raise "wide or important issues, even if strictly speaking they fall within the responsibilities of a departmental minister."

At the same time, "members should table fewer questions to the Prime Minister asking about his official visits or engagements," a common stratagem on both sides of the House nowadays.

The committee proposes that for the rest of the session Mr Callaghan should not automatically transfer to other ministers questions involving their departments.

MPs to meet vaccine experts

By Our Political Correspondent

Experts in the use of vaccination and immunization as a means of preventing communicable diseases will face questions from MPs at the House of Commons tonight. The meeting has been arranged with the help of the Department of Health and is under all-party auspices, because of the concern felt about the drop in the number of children being presented for vaccination.

MPs believe that the campaign to get compensation for the parents of children who have suffered brain damage as a result of being given anti-whooping cough vaccine has

created much alarm, and that unnecessary risks are being taken.

In the Commons Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has deplored statements that have thrown doubt on the wisdom of vaccination. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization issued a statement last month saying that the continuing decline in the uptake of vaccination must be viewed with grave concern.

There have been more cases of poliomyelitis in the past six months than in any similar period in this decade, the minister said.

Because of conflicting statements, MPs asked that they should be able to question the experts. The meeting has been arranged by Mr Laurence Pavia, MP for Brent, South; Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Walsley; and Lord Williams.

The experts will be Sir Charles Stuart Harris, chairman of the joint committee; Professor J. A. Dudgeon, consultant microbiologist, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London; Professor R. W. G. Gilliat, Professor of Clinical Neurology, London University; and Professor J. Knowlson, Professor of Community Medicine, Sheffield University.

Rail disruption again today

Disruption of some services to and from Liverpool Street, London, are expected again today. British Rail said last night. Crews are refusing to work new schedules.

Yesterday 58 trains were cancelled mostly on the east London route to Gidea Park, serving Stratford, Ilford and Romford. Other lines affected were those to Southend, with isolated cancellations from Witham and Cambridge.

Body identified

A body found on Sunday 2,000ft up a mountain in Argyll was identified yesterday as that of John Boyd, aged 50, a shop manager, of Warrick, Herefordshire, who disappeared in September.

Royal Scot jubilee

The Royal Scots' green train celebrated its golden jubilee yesterday by covering the 401 miles from London to Glasgow in 4 hr 57 min.

£15,000 station raid

Two masked gunmen escaped with about £15,000 in a raid on East Ham Underground station

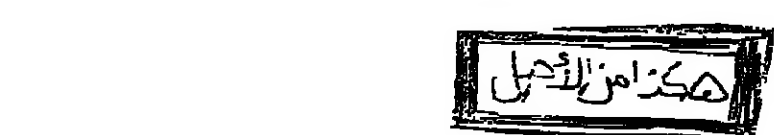
Prentice warning on direct elections

By Our Political Staff

The Government has dawdled too long over the Bill to provide direct elections to the European Parliament, Mr Reg Prentice, the former minister for Northern Ireland, told a meeting organized by the "Kensington and Chelsea in Europe" group last night.

The Government should have given this Bill priority over the Scotland and Wales Bill, he said. "Ministers got their priorities wrong for reasons of party tactics and are now in a mess. The devolution Bill has been killed and we are dangerously behind schedule on direct elections."

"We must get a move on and be ready to hold these elections in May next year," Mr Prentice said the refer-



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at hotels, restaurants and motorway service areas who may have been inconvenienced by the effects of action by the Transport and General Workers Union. The Union is seeking to exert pressure in connection with three minor disputes at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford, the Grosvenor House Hotel, Sheffield, and the Night Out Theatre Restaurant, Birmingham.

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- 1** Of the 585 employees at these three establishments, only 67 are on strike.
- 2** In separate independent ballots conducted at these establishments, an overwhelming 89% of the votes cast were against the Transport and General Workers Union being involved in representing the staff.
- 3** Trust Houses Forte's policy continues to be one of recognising a trade union which can demonstrate that it has the support of the majority of the staff employed at the establishment where it is seeking recognition.
- 4** Trust Houses Forte have repeatedly urged the Transport and General Workers Union to take the disputes to independent arbitration. The Transport and General Workers Union have refused.

The Union's action has created considerable resentment on the part of Trust Houses Forte's 46,000 staff in the UK—many of whom are members of trade unions, including the Transport and General Workers Union.

The three units concerned have operated normally throughout and will continue to remain open for business.

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HOME NEWS

Parties woo London with travel pledges

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

With two days to go before the Greater London Council election, the parties are bringing their rabbits out of the hat to convince the electorate that they can bring salvation to London.

All the parties except, of course, the campaign to abolish the Greater London Council, which confidently said yesterday that even if it failed to win a seat this time it would sweep the board in 1981, unless the GLC was not already abolished by then.

With no gimmicks and only 31 candidates, it claims support across party boundaries, and is hoping to encourage some of the 60 per cent abstainers in the last election to vote on Thursday.

The Liberals, who are staunchly defending their two seats at County Hall, unveiled a plan to make regular travellers on London Transport buses and Tube trains shareholders in the enterprise.

They have worked out, with the aid of a financier, Mr Kenneth Cooper, a scheme to bring in £1,200m a year to keep down fares and help to finance the whole operation.

A traveller investing £200 spread over five years would have his fares reduced by 20 per cent, £400 by 40 per cent, £600 by 60 per cent, £800 by 80 per cent. Anyone investing £1,000 would travel free for five years.

The main opposition, the Conservatives, propose to appoint a council officer with a roving commission to "root out waste".

Answering accusations of waste from the Conservatives, who accused Labour of pouring money down the drain with its £140m transport subsidy for this year, Labour replied: "That clearly reveals your contempt for public transport in London."

Sir Reg Goodwin, council leader, said it was Labour's firm intention to continue subsidies. The Fleet Line, a new lifeline to southern and east London, would encourage jobs and industry, he said.

The local elections 10: Labour doubts in another 'impregnable' area
Ashfield gives South Yorkshire the shiversFrom Ronald Kershaw
Barnsley

In normal circumstances the South Yorkshire County Council elections could almost be written off as a foregone conclusion, with Labour retaining or improving on its present control. Of the 100 seats, 82 for Labour is a healthy margin.

But these are unusual times, and with the lesson of the Ashfield parliamentary by-election fresh in memory, the South Yorkshire electorate is looking to Thursday with a certain amount of excitement. Ashfield has acted as a tonic that may well revive the anti-Labour interest in the county.

The present constitution is Labour 82 seats, Conservative 13, Liberal one. Independent three, and "others" one. Conservative and Labour, as expected, have nominated candidates for all 100 seats. Liberals have weighed in with 45, Independents five, and "others" 52.

Over-caution is never a bad thing in politics, but after 30 years of following local government elections in South Yorkshire fairly closely, I was staggered to hear a senior Labour member at Barnsley entertain the idea that the Labour Party could lose control of the county council. He went so far as to suggest that in the old Barnsley borough area, in the heart of the mining industry, four out of six Labour seats could fall. Doncaster and Rotherham, both Labour strongholds, were considered "wide open".

Reasons are not difficult to find. Disenchantment with government policies, including prices, wage restrictions, and cuts in public expenditure may well keep many Labour voters at home. Internal strife in a number of local Labour parties where left-wing elements have been questioning the official party line has been evident for the past couple of years. What might be termed "ordinary"

Labour Party members have had to employ tactics usually reserved for the opposition, to protect their officers and prevent coups by the left.

Then there is South Yorkshire's public transport policy, the county council made national news headlines by flatly refusing government instructions to increase bus fares. For its audacity, South Yorkshire was deprived of what was considered to be its fair share of the transport supplementary grant. It received only £330,000 instead of the £5m to which the South Yorkshire electorate was entitled.

South Yorkshire County Council Labour group has written to the Prime Minister asking him to consider the matter with his Cabinet colleagues, with a view to removing the injustice. It is pointed out that the effect of the decision is that the electorate is deprived of its share of the national cake to which it has contributed and has to make unnecessary sacrifices else-

where. The group mentions in passing that South Yorkshire is the strongest Labour controlled big council in the country.

There are those who regard the county council's policy of pegging bus fares when pay rises were restricted as right, but questionable in the present financial climate. There are many more, however, who consider the loss of the transport subsidy to be disastrous and the burden that its consequences will throw on the rate-payers unbearable. If properly exploited by opposition parties, the bus fares fiasco could cost Labour a lot of votes.

Only in the anti-Labour vote is there any measure of energy and enthusiasm, and even that appears to be at a fairly low ebb. I live in South Yorkshire and have yet to see a poster of any colour or receive any kind of electioneering pamphlet. My request for an election manifesto from officials of the principal parties was met with enthusiasm and promises but no returns.

Callaghan eve-of-poll reminders to candidates

By Our Political Staff

Labour's tough decisions in government have still to bear fruit, the Prime Minister says today in an eve-of-poll message to local government election candidates.

But local authorities have been asked to avoid "brutal slashing for the sake of it".

He cites his own housing and the inner cities. Council building starts of 150,000 are envisaged this year: 24,000 down on 1975, but 37,000 more than in 1973.

Rent subsidies prevented £1.50 average rises last year; arrangements with building societies will keep up the flow of funds; and 75 "stress areas" have priority housing programmes.

London and the big cities have extra rate support grant, and work to salvage the inner cities will cost an extra £1,000m over the next decade.

Record numbers with exam qualifications

By Diana Geddes

A record number of pupils leaving school gained an examination qualification in 1976-75, statistics published today by the Department of Education and Science show. Of 631,800 school-leavers, 557,600, representing four-fifths of the total, gained at least one grade CSE or GCE level.

That is the same proportion of the smaller total number of school-leavers in the previous year, but significantly larger than the 55 per cent who gained one or more grades in 1969-70. Almost all of that increase, however, is accounted for by an increase in grades below the lower levels of attainment.

The proportion of leavers getting one or more CSE grades, 2 to 5 (the lowest grade or GCE O level grades), rose from 12 per cent in 1969-70 to 31 per cent in 1974-75, and the proportion

getting between one and four higher grades (O level grades A to C, and CSE grade 1) rose from 19 to 25 per cent. But the proportion of those gaining five or more CSE or GCE O level higher grades, with one or more A levels, only rose from 8 to 9 per cent over the five-year period, while the proportions gaining one or more A level even fell slightly from 16 to 15 per cent.

The actual number of leavers with A level passes rose in a record of 106,000, 23,000 more than a decade earlier, however. Most (84,000) gained two or more A levels. Half of those took at least one science subject, the same proportion as in 1964-65. But the proportion passing two or more A levels in science subjects alone has fallen from 39 per cent over the decade to 31 per cent.

Statistics of Education, 1975, School-leavers, CSE and GCE (Stationery Office; 54.25).

Innovation in schools 'too rapid'

By a Staff Reporter

The proliferation of syllabuses and the diversity in modern methods of teaching threatened academic standards, university representatives told a House of Commons Committee investigating the attainment of school-leavers yesterday.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said in evidence to the expenditure committee's education and arts subcommittee that the pace of innovation in the schools had been too rapid, especially in mathematics. It announced a survey of A-level mathematics to determine what core elements were needed for university entrance.

The committee said: "The school curriculum has considerably widened with increasing emphasis on optional elements and on subjects which 20 years ago were not regarded as the concern of second level education. New styles of teaching and pupil assessment have been adopted, within higher education many new degree courses and combinations of subjects have been introduced with consequent implications for the preparation of sixth-formers."

Dr Harry Kay, Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, said that many professors of mathematics were being forced to spend the last few months of time covering basic matters not learnt by pupils in schools. That reduced time available for more advanced university work.

The vice-chancellors criticised the new A-levels and Mode III examinations in the schools. They were also convinced that leaving examinations entirely in the hands of teachers guaranteed standards.

Criticism of standards of mathematics at A level came also from the Association of University Teachers.

Strike call in support of teachers

By Diana Geddes

A meeting of the North London Teachers' Association decided last night to call on the executive of the National Union of Teachers to recommend strike action in protest against the dismissal of the six teachers of William Tyndale Junior School, Islington.

About 200 of the 1,200 members in the branch voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion expressing opposition to the recommendation of immediate dismissal of the teachers by an Inner-London Education Authority disciplinary tribunal. The teachers have appealed against that recommendation to the ILA staff appeals subcommittee.

The north London association expressed its anxiety over the teachers having been dismissed apparently solely on the basis of a complaint of indiscipline which arose from a 24-day strike held by the six teachers in September 1975, in protest over an ILA decision to inspect the school.

The Association's strike recommendation will go before the Inner London Teachers' Association on May 10. That association's approval of the recommendation "is required before it can be approved by the national executive of the union."

The National Union of Teachers has already made clear, however, that it would not give its sanction to any official industrial action in support of the six Tyndale teachers. The teachers went on strike in 1975 in defiance of official union policy. Mr Max Morris, chairman of the union's action committee, said: "There was a snowball's chance in hell that the NUT executive would support strike action."

First ship built to take Harriers

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Naval aviation enters a new era today with the launch by the Queen, from the Vickers yard at Barrow-in-Furness, of the Invincible, the first of a line of through-deck cruisers for the Royal Navy.

The Invincible (20,000 tons) will be the first ship in the British Navy to carry the vertical take-off and landing Harrier fighter as part of her regular complement.

The Harrier is in service with the RAF, being specially adapted for service from the deck of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, the first Sea King helicopter carrier.

A second through-deck cruiser, the Illustrious, is being built by Swan Hunter at Newcastle, and the Navy hopes for a third. Each will carry five Harriers as well as nine Westland Sea King helicopters.

The role of the Sea Harriers in time of hostilities would be to protect the Fleet from reconnaissance aircraft as it patrolled

the northern approaches to the Atlantic. The role of the Sea Kings would be to detect enemy submarines. Each helicopter is equipped with "dunking sonar" which is suspended in the water to listen for underwater activity.

With a complement of a thousand officers and men, the Invincible is the biggest ship built for the Royal Navy since the 1950s. Before her authorisation, it was assumed that naval aviation would be phased out with the withdrawal from service of HMS Ark Royal, the only remaining aircraft carrier.

When the Ark Royal is paid off at the end of the decade, Phantom and Buccaneer strike aircraft will be handed over for service with the Royal Air Force.

The cost of the new ship, officially known as an anti-submarine cruiser, has never been officially stated, but may be about £60m. Her makers, the Navy, and Rolls-Royce, which manufactures the engines, are optimistic about possible sales abroad.

'Open government' lesson seen in Profumo papers

By Peter Hennessy

Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, promised yesterday to consider adding preservation and publication of public records to the agenda of the Cabinet committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, which is considering the introduction of a more open system of government.

Repeating in the Lords to a question from Lord Bethell about the criteria used in "weeding" government documents for destruction, the Lord Chancellor said: "As far as is known, deliberate destruction of an official record on grounds of political sensitivity has never been established in modern times. But the possibility that

it has happened cannot, of course, be excluded."

The preservation of the Profumo papers in the Cabinet office, despite the belief of Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, that they had been destroyed, was evidence of departmental attitudes in such matters.

Documents of historical significance were kept. But those affected by security considerations or involving the confidence of the individual could remain closed to the public for ever.

Lord Elwyn-Jones expressed sympathy with historians who had expressed concern about the treatment of public records. It was his duty to ensure that the Government fulfilled its responsibilities to the public in those matters, he said.

Parliamentary report, May 3 Letters, page 15

Nurses seek protection from attacks

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing has told the Department of Health and Social Security that it must protect staff in hospital accident and emergency departments from violence by patients and their friends and relatives.

The college has invited the Casualty Surgeons' Association to form a joint working party to make recommendations to control violence in departments. There will be a meeting later this week to discuss details.

The college, which recently organized a meeting in Glasgow to discuss violence in casualty units, says there should be a room in all units set aside for violent patients; because friends and relatives often instigate the violence their restraint should be the responsibility of a security officer and not that of nursing staff; and that nurses in casualty units must not leave the area to carry out other hospital duties.

Attention to increasing violence in accident and casualty departments was first drawn last month by Nursing Times, whose reporter, Miss Frances Cowper-Smith, found most staff reluctant to admit that there is a difficulty.

The nurses in Glasgow insisted the college should report yesterday that there should be a direct alarm link to police stations to help to combat increasing violence by patients. A screening process to remove "hangers on" from casualty areas was urged.

Some nurses at the meeting complained about lack of support from doctors and porters, who, they said, turned their backs on violent patients, saying that it was a nursing matter. One casualty unit sister received considerable support when she said that patients' rights were recognized but not nurses' rights to protect themselves.

A male nurse in a Basingstoke hospital had protected a female colleague from a young woman who was throwing reports and instruments at the staff but he was reprimanded and suspended for two days.

Parents urged to ban unsuitable books

Parents should refuse to allow their children to read or study any prescribed book they found to be "unsuitable and inappropriate", a teacher, Mr John Harris, writes in today's issue of *Amna*, the journal of the Associated Masters' Association.

Mr Harris, who teaches at Gowerston Comprehensive School, West Gloucestershire, said his daughter, aged 16, had been asked to read Mr Semmler's *Planet* by Saul Bellow as part of an O level course in American studies.

It included references to a man's exposing himself and a description of his genitalia, he says, and a girl saying, in a direct way, that she was going to have sexual intercourse all night.

Mr Harris told his daughter's teacher that he would not allow her to read the book, and as a result she wrote to the examination board complaining at its inclusion in the course.

If children are encouraged or forced to study works containing four-letter words or describing certain types of behaviour, how can teachers object to the use of the words in classroom conversation or to the exhibition of similar behaviour patterns? Mr Harris asks.

There is a world of difference between an honest answer to a straight question and compelling a child to study a work which describes what many would regard as a desecration or perversion of sex, he says.

Mr Peter Smith, assistant general secretary of the association, commented that all good teachers should look through either their own choice of books or books recommended by exam boards to decide if they were suitable. Otherwise they are not good teachers.

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HOME NEWS

Low pay of doctors in Britain worries European colleagues

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

European doctors are concerned about the low pay of British doctors and the effect this might have on the profession's salaries generally.

Dr Wolfgang Beckhold, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Frankfurt and president of the Fédération des Médecins de l'Europe, said at a London meeting that there was a great need to harmonize the conditions of employment for salaried doctors throughout the European Economic Community.

Reporting the meeting, for which the Fédération des Médecins de l'Europe had sent a delegation, Dr Beckhold said that the German Government was justifying its decision to pay its salaried doctors over 40

hours a week by saying that such contracts were not adopted throughout Europe.

The federation is made up of a large number of associations representing the interests of European doctors who spend all or part of their time in salaried employment. It has negotiated a charter for salaried doctors with the EEC.

In view of this, doctors must speak with one voice. Governments, the meeting was told, are beginning to take advantage of the situation in which there is an excess of doctors in certain specialties. In Italy doctors are accepting posts in industrial medicine at far below negotiated rates.

A proposal leading a department of medicine in which there is an excess of doctors, the federation should not, on ethical grounds, accept strikes action by doctors. But the federation appreciated that British doctors might be forced by a monopoly employer to take such action.

Journalist wanted to write what he liked

A four-year dispute about a journalist's right to write what he likes in a newspaper column was described at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

Mr C. H. Gordon Tether, aged 64, who wrote the *London Column* in the *Financial Times* for 21 years, until he was dismissed last year, is asking the tribunal to declare that his dismissal was unfair.

The dispute began soon after Mr Max Henry (Freddie) Elster became editor of the paper in 1973. Since then it has involved management, journalists, the National Union of Journalists and the Newspaper Proprietors' Association.

Mr Thomas Morrison, for the newspaper, said that towards the end of Mr Tether's employment, his performance deteriorated to a point beyond what was acceptable. "It had become becoming and strident to the point where it was no longer compatible with the requirements of a quality newspaper."

Mr Tether said he had complete freedom to write what he liked, about what he liked and

how he liked, in the hours of his own choosing. He asserted that the freedom of the press was at the heart of his right as a journalist.

Mr Tether had regarded any form of editorial control, guidance or censorship as censorship. Yet there was no one in Fleet Street, "not one single journalist," entitled to the rights being claimed by Mr Tether, Mr Morrison said.

The editor, on the other hand, asserted that whatever freedom Mr Tether may have over the content, the decision as to what to use a piece written by him in his form as written or altered remains with him.

"He asserts that his right as an editor is, in fact, the guarantee of the freedom of the press," Mr Morrison said.

The decision to dismiss Mr Tether was taken after attempts to resolve the conflict had failed. He was offered full pay until he reached retirement age and his pension was to be unaffected.

The hearing continues today.

Union's request to stop news is refused

The Press Association yesterday refused to agree to a request from the National Union of Journalists that its services to provincial papers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland should be cut off for 24 hours from 5 pm on Thursday.

The union has called on all its members who work for newspapers within the Newspaper Society to withdraw their labour for 24 hours in support of a dispute involving journalists at Kettering, Northamptonshire, which has lasted for 21 weeks.

Mr Robert Norris, the NUI national organizer, accompanied by members of the PA chapel (office branch) met Mr Alan Yates, the agency's chief executive, Mr David Chapin, the editor-in-chief, and other members of the management yesterday afternoon formally to present the union's request.

Mr Norris said that if the agency did not agree the NUI's emergency committee had

decided that the journalists would be called out on strike. If the PA service said continued members throughout the country would be instructed to "black" it. In addition, no NUI member would be permitted to provide copy for the agency for the duration of the strike.

The strike is aimed to coincide with the local elections in England and Wales and the arrival and visit to the North-east of President Carter.

Mr Yates told Mr Norris that the agency could not agree to the request. "It is our policy to remain independent of the disputes of others and we shall continue to send out our normal service, no more and no less. In no way do we consider this to be strike-breaking," he said.

Mr Alfred Browne, father (chairman) of the PA chapel, said there would be a mandatory meeting tomorrow afternoon at which the emergency committee's instructions would be put to members.

Lords begin Stonehouse appeal hearing

John Stonehouse, the former MP, serving a seven-year sentence, began an appeal in the House of Lords, yesterday, against five of the 14 charges to which he was convicted. The Lords, who were told earlier this year when they granted leave for the presentation of yesterday's appeal, that whatever the outcome of this appeal it would not affect Mr Stonehouse's sentence.

He received concurrent sentences of six years, and one consecutive sentence of 12 months, on counts that are not the subject of the present appeal, is appealing against conviction on five counts alleging that he attempted to obtain £25,000 in insurance money for his wife, Barbara, from five life insurance companies by deception, the deception consisting of a faked death by drowning off Miami Beach on November 20, 1974.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, is counsel, said that the reasons were not triable before the English courts at all.

The hearing continues today.

Two young men jailed over Asian's death

Two young men accused at the Central Criminal Court in connection with a street fight last year, in which an Asian died, were jailed for four years today after changing their pleas.

Jody Gill, aged 17, a clerk from South, and Robert Hackman, aged 18, unemployed, of Hammersmith, both London, had been on trial for the murder of Gurdeep Chaggar, who was stabbed to death in the alley at Southall on June 4 last year.

They changed their pleas yesterday from guilty to the manslaughter of Mr Chaggar.

Mr Justice Lawson said: "If you were older you would each go to prison for a very long time. I am quite satisfied that neither of you were activated by feelings of racial prejudice."

He sentenced both to six months' imprisonment for having an offensive weapon and making an affray, to which they pleaded guilty, the sentences to run concurrently.

The trial continues of a number of white and Asian young men charged with making an affray.

Dartmoor protest deferred

Our Crime Correspondent Prison staff at Dartmoor have lifted off their first day of action on duties for 24 hours, but two MPs meet Mr Rees, Home Secretary, today to press for improvements in the officers' living conditions.

"We did not want the Home Secretary to feel that he is going under duress," Mr Ian Benwell, chairman of the Prison Department's Prison Officers' Association, said last night. Since the end of March the 30 staff at the prison have refused to supervise the activities of the 500 inmates, apart from

an hour a day exercise period, in protest at what they say are "substandard living conditions" in their quarters outside.

Mr Peter Mills, MP for Devon, West, and Mr Alan Clark, MP for Plymouth, Sutton, both Conservatives, have an appointment with Mr Rees at the Home Office, at which they will urge him to increase the Prison Department's £102,000 to instal central heating and double glazing. The staff, on the advice of an independent surveyor, says that at least £500,000 should be spent on the work.

WEST EUROPE

Mitterrand views calm EEC fears

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, May 2

A visit to the European Commission today by M. François Mitterrand, the leader of the French Socialist Party, suggested that a France under left-wing rule would have remarkably similar views on the EEC to those of the present Government.

Speaking at a press conference after talks with Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the Commission, and several of his colleagues, M. Mitterrand took an essentially Government line, for example, on the subject of direct elections to the European Parliament.

There could be no question for the Socialists of going beyond the Treaty of Rome at this stage, M. Mitterrand said. Direct elections were one thing, but any enlargement of the European Parliament's powers could be considered only after a "probationary period".

The French Communist Party's hostility towards direct elections had recently become more "nuanced", M. Mitterrand asserted, and he did not regard it as a "source of discord" sufficient to prevent the emergence of a union of the left in France.

On the French enlargement of the EEC, M. Mitterrand also showed himself to be roughly in line with current thinking in Paris. Although politically in favour of welcoming Mediterranean countries into the European fold, he had reservations on economic grounds.

Timbers will deteriorate unless Italy comes to rescue Carthaginian warship seeks home

From Peter Nichols

Rome, May 2

Miss Honor Frost, the marine archaeologist, has appealed here for a suitable building to house the Carthaginian warship which she discovered and brought out of the sea off Marsala six years ago.

Speaking at the British School here, she said that it was a matter of great urgency to reassemble the ship and put it in a place suitable for display to the public.

The ship's planks and timbers are being impregnated with a wax solution to guarantee their preservation. If left too long—Miss Frost says 18 months is the limit—the wood will harden and become too brittle either to be put back into shape or to be satisfactorily fixed together.

Miss Frost discovered the vessel in August, 1971, and three years later she found a sister ship. Enough has been found of the first wreck for at least a partial reconstruction: about one third of the port side is intact.

The ship was almost certainly sunk during the first Punic War (250-250 BC) between Rome and Carthage. It is a big warship which probably carried 138 warriors and oarsmen and may have sunk on its maiden voyage. The only comparable find is that of a Punic vessel off Cyprus, but that is much smaller and a merchant vessel.

The Marsala ship has revealed unexpected details of ancient shipbuilding and sailing, as well as the discovery in the hold of baskets containing *canis lupus*, presumably the equivalent for ancient seamen,



The first trial model of the warship's stern.

Miss Frost, says, of a modern sailor's run.

Markings on the planks show that a form of mass-production was used in ancient shipyards. This discovery of the use of prefabrication explains how ancient historians could describe the seemingly incredible speed of shipbuilding at the time. Pliny speaks of 16 Romans who built 100 ships in 60 days.

About 200 painted signs on the ship indicate where timbers were to be placed on the floor of the keel and how planks should be fitted together before being added to the structure. These marks have also helped to define the Punic word *war*. Every time it appears on the ship, it is close to a nail, suggesting that that was its meaning.

In the Hebrew version of the Book of Exodus, God tells the Hebrews to attach the tabernacle hangings to acacia wood with *canis lupus*, which is the plural of *war*, a word common to Punic and Hebrew. In Arabic, *war* means hook but it seems now, after the decipher-

ing of the prefabrication signs on the Marsala ship, that both in Punic and Hebrew the meaning was nail.

Scholarly fascination must for the moment, however, take second place to the immediate practical problem of where to find a building large enough for the work of reassembly of the treated wood and appropriate to show the reconstructed wreck to the public.

The Italians showed little interest in their own find of Roman boats several years ago at Fiumicino. These boats have never been put on show to the public. Moreover, Sicilian museums already have a great deal of archaeological material and probably would be hard put to it to accommodate the big warship.

By the summer of next year all the wood will have been put in place. Some of the remains will be ready for reconstruction next year. It will then be essential to set naval engineers to the task of reassembling. This work could presumably best be done in the building, which will be the ship's final home.

Ministers blamed for farm price inflation

From David Cross

Brussels, May 2

The "irresponsible attitude" of EEC ministers of agriculture had quadrupled the cost of this year's farm price review to some £417m, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the European Commissioner for budgetary affairs said today.

Governments of member states frequently attacked the Commission for not being sufficiently cost-conscious and Community policies for being too expensive, he told a meeting of the European Movement in Brussels. But it was as a result of decisions taken by ministers that the budgetary cost of the common agriculture policy has been so significantly increased.

Moreover, the agreement on prices reached last week in Luxembourg was bound to lead to a significant increase in

agricultural surpluses, particularly of butter and skimmed milk powder, while at the same time discouraging consumption, Mr Tugendhat maintained.

The problem at the moment was that decisions on farm prices were taken almost exclusively by ministers of agriculture, whose prime role was to support their different national farming lobbies.

"More effective ways must be found for engaging other interests, especially those of the taxpayer and the consumer, in the settlement of agricultural prices." If the common agricultural policy was to survive and continue to be the cornerstone of the Community, it needed the support of all sections of the public to be seen to be organized in the interests of all, Mr Tugendhat concluded.

Legal proceedings against Ireland in fish dispute

From Our Own Correspondent

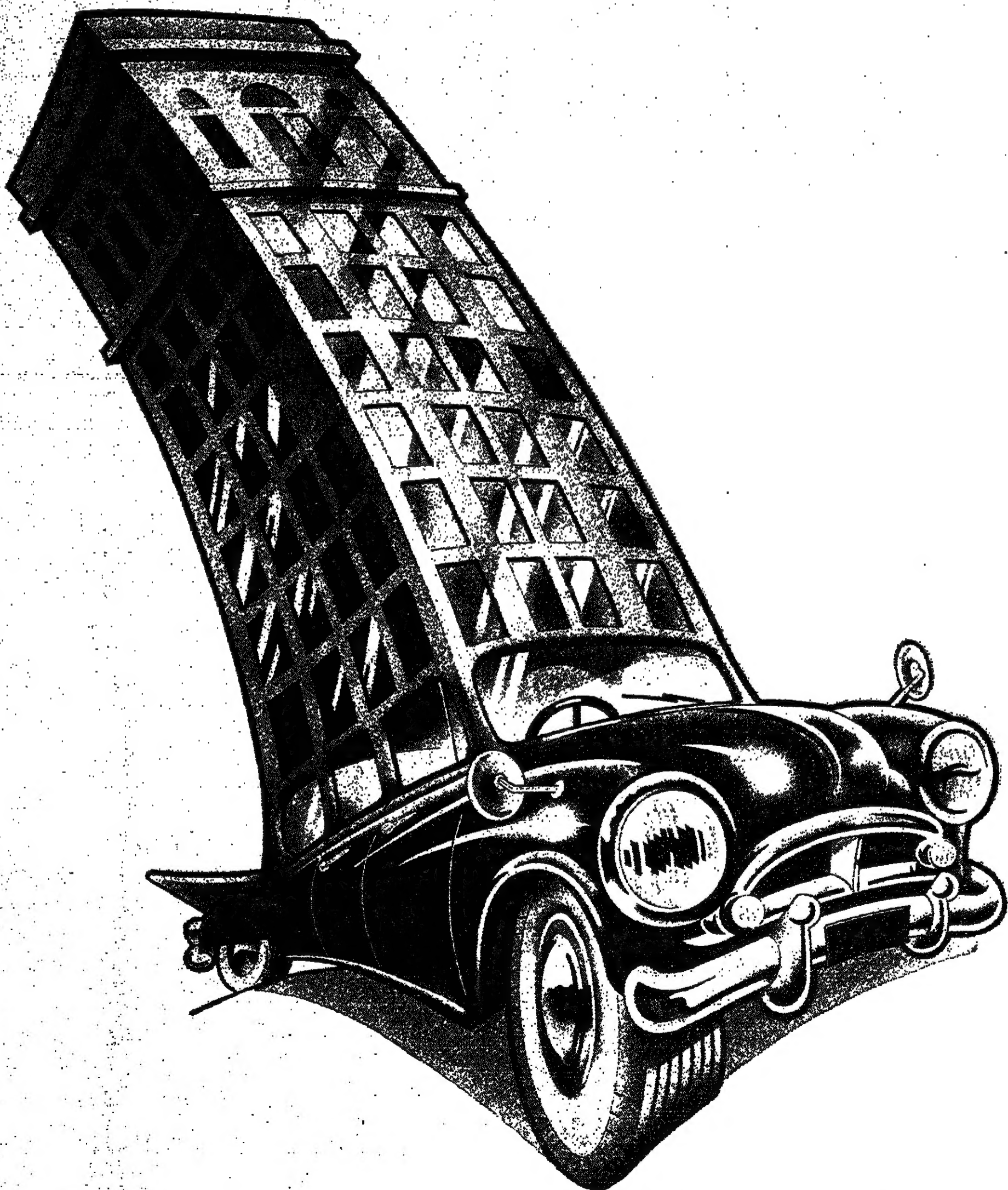
Brussels, May 2

Mr Finn Olaf Gundelach, the European Commissioner for agriculture and fish, is expected to open legal proceedings against the Irish Government after last week's arrest of 10 Dutch trawlers off the Irish coast.

This would be in response to a request from the Dutch authorities, who have protested strongly against the arrests. Mr Gundelach is known to share the Dutch view that the ban imposed by the Irish Govern-

ment last month on all fishing activities by boats more than 110ft in length and 1,100 brake horse power contravenes EEC common fisheries policy.

Under existing arrangements, offshore waters between six or 12 miles and 200 miles fall under the Commission's jurisdiction and are freely available for the use of fishing fleets from all member states. But the Irish maintain that special supplementary provisions agreed by the Nine in The Hague last year authorize last month's unilateral ban.



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OVERSEAS

Cairo press campaign against expulsion of Egyptians by Libya

From Our Own Correspondent, Cairo, May 2.

President Sadat of Egypt scarcely mentioned Libya in his May Day speech in Alexandria last night but the Egyptian newspapers which reflect his opinions, which means all four dailies in Cairo, left their readers in no doubt this morning that the Government's dislike for Colonel Gaddafi's regime is as bitter as ever.

On its front page, the semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* said that a total of 1,545 Egyptians had been deported from Libya in the past four days.

The allegations of Libyan mistreatment of Egyptian workers are, of course, not new, but the sustained coverage in the Egyptian press of what the Government here describes as a determined, almost racial, expulsion seems calculated to build up intense public feeling against Libya among Egyptian workers.

Until recently, President Sadat's attitude to Colonel Gaddafi tended to be on a higher political plane. While they may have been understood by the mass of workers, they hardly touched their lives.

According to *Al-Ahram*, Colonel Gaddafi has issued instructions to agricultural labour contractors in Libya to discontinue the services of Egyptian farm workers, read their contracts and arrange for their deportation. The contracts of Egyptians employed on military installations in Libya, the paper says, have already been cancelled.

Cairo airport, the report goes on, has received information from Tripoli that the Libyans are to reduce from 15 to eight the number of daily flights between the two countries. Two Libyan aircraft, arriving at Cairo yesterday are reported to have carried 112 Egyptians deported from Libya.

But not all the details issued about the mistreatment of Egyptian workers are necessary.

Arabs said to live longer under Israel rule

From Our Correspondent, Gaza, May 2.

The Ministry of Health in Jerusalem has published a report showing that Arabs under Israeli law are living longer and healthier.

Palestinian doctors interviewed in hospitals and clinics here said that health standards had improved, but objected to comparisons with conditions under the Egyptians.

"The Israelis brought equipment and some things," Dr. Khairi Abu Ramadan, Director of Medical Services under the Egyptians and now under the Israelis, conceded. "But the question is how we compare with Hadassah and Tel Hashomer," he added, referring to two of Israel's best equipped hospitals.

Dr. Anton Shostakov, an ear, nose and throat specialist trained in England, said that progress in medicine was slow in the strip by international standards, and he attributed the improved health to other developments.

"Education standards are higher," he explained. "People work in Israel and earn well. They buy soap. They have money for a doctor. They do not spend much more on food, but they improve their homes, installing indoor plumbing and running water."

The Israelis in their report, issued to the World Health Organization, said it had been possible to introduce sophisticated medicine in the West Bank because the Jordanians had already started basic services and there was something to upgrade and to refine. But the Gaza Strip under Egyptian rule had been "underdeveloped" with widespread malnutrition and rampant infectious diseases. Some 120 of every 1,000 babies had failed to reach their first birthday. Accordingly, the Israelis had to deal with basic prevention and primary care services.

The report said that a chain of maternity and child health centres helped to reduce infant mortality to 50 per 1,000, notwithstanding a fertility rate that was among the highest in the world.

Immunisation, improved sanitation and various treatments had eradicated malaria, trachoma, cholera and smallpox in the occupied areas, and reduced polio and measles. Gastrointestinal and respiratory infectious diseases were also declining.

Dr. Roghaya al-Shawwa, a paediatrician, acknowledged that the Israelis had achieved some improvement but she quickly added that they were also responsible for an increase of mental illness. "The tensions are greater," she said.

All 160 doctors serving the strip's 400,000 people are Palestinian, except for one Israeli radiologist and a liaison officer. Israeli specialists are brought in as required, and some patients referred to Israeli hospitals.

Dangers in a national conspiracy of silence

Lebanon's fantasy is that its war never actually happened

From Robert Fisk, Beirut.

The Lebanese fantasy begins before you touch down at Beirut international airport. From the rack at the front of the Middle East Airlines jet, passengers are offered MEA's in-flight magazine.

It contains photographs of the capital's expensive high-rise hotel area and of nightclubs and the Casino. It advertises the delights of the international festival at Baalbek.

There is not even a printed slip at the front of the booklet to inform readers that the hotels in the photograph are in ruins, that the Baalbek festival has been non-existent for two years and that the Casino has not staged a floor show since the middle of 1975.

For the Lebanese fantasy, nurtured by the fears of both communities and perhaps encouraged by authorities, is that the civil war which cost almost 40,000 lives never actually happened.

Climb into a taxi at the airport and ask the driver to take you to the Muslim suburb of Kanakari and there is a fair chance he will deliver you to Martyr's Square almost 500 yards from your destination and ask you to walk the rest of the way. You are not expected to ask him the journey has ended prematurely.

The reason is that the driver is a Christian and will not risk driving those last few yards into Muslim territory.

The Lebanese have invented code-words to avoid talking about the war and its effects. Muslim Beirut will refer to "the other side" when they mean the Christian district of east Beirut; the ruined front line still divides the two sides and few Muslims venture into Christian territory.

The war itself is a subject which visitors are not expected to bring up. When I called at one of the American banks in the city to collect a cash transfer, the clerk apologized for the time it took to change the currency. We are still chasing a few problems from recent events," he said, like a man talking about a devaluation or a power failure.

"The events"—*shadath* in Arabic—is the expression used in the newspapers, in ministerial speeches, by policemen and government officials. It is considered impolite to mention the war.

No direct references to the fighting appear in the local press, which is subject to government censorship. Even the Egyptian food riots in January were considered too dangerous to be given much coverage in the Beirut papers.

President Sarkis did wisely decide to put a stop to the censorship of foreign correspondents, who can now report Lebanon could in time suffer the horrors of its civil war all over again.

Mr Carter proposes new welfare system

From Fred Emery, Washington, May 2.

President Carter said today he would scrap the existing "patchwork" of federal welfare schemes and ask Congress to replace them with a simpler and more equitable system.

Even with early legislation, it would take until 1981 before the programme could be fully implemented.

Mr Carter's most radical proposal is to consolidate all federal benefits for the poor who cannot work into a single cash payment that would vary only as the cost of living varied between areas.

Under the present schemes, federal funds match those provided locally. This means that parsimonious local authorities attract only small federal assistance payments. For instance, a poor person in Alabama would receive only about a fifth of the federal money paid in a generous state like New York.

Under the new scheme, the discrepancy would end.

Mr Carter also proposes to create more jobs, primarily in the private sector, but with a guarantee of at least employ-

Editor resigns over alleged interference by Aga Khan

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi, May 2.

Mr George Githili has resigned from his post as editor-in-chief of the *Daily Nation* after a disagreement with the newspaper's main shareholder, the Aga Khan, who is the leader of the Ismaili Muslims.

Mr Githili has published his letter of resignation, objecting to the alleged interference of the Aga Khan in a dispute between the newspaper and the small Bohra Muslim community here. Earlier this year Mr Githili wrote a leading article criticising the Bohra leadership for its attitude towards "dissidents" within the community, who are barred from mosques and from contact with other Bohra Muslims.

According to Mr Githili's letter, the Aga Khan had sought to have a leading article published in the *Daily Nation* withdrawing the criticism. Mr Githili describes this as "direct interference with editorial integrity and press freedom." He also alleges that the Aga Khan's office has "persistently sought to persuade the nation to take a pro-Arab and anti-Israeli line, which so far I have resisted as a matter of principle."

A notice in today's *Daily Nation* announces Mr Githili's resignation and says that the paper's directors are to meet tomorrow.

Zaire suspends relations with East Germany

Kinshasa, May 2.—Zaire today announced it was suspending diplomatic relations with East Germany. The official Zaire news agency, Amap, said East German diplomats were being ordered to leave within 48 hours and Zaire diplomats in East Berlin were being recalled.

Zaire last week accused East Germany of supplying arms and ammunition to insurgents fighting Government forces in the southern provinces of Shaba, formerly Katanga.

An official statement said East Germany must be added to a "list of nations" which already included the Soviet Union, Angola and Cuba. All four have denied they are involved in the fighting. Zaire suspended diplomatic relations with Cuba on April 4.

These agency reports, "very serious" fighting yesterday 15 miles from the Zairean border town of Kasaji. A Zaire force of Zairean and Moroccan troops inflicted considerable losses on the enemy and itself suffered some dead and wounded, the agency said without giving any figures.

It was the first report of casualties since the Government troops and their Moroccan allies began a westward advance towards the border with Angola last week from the recaptured railway town of Mushasha.

Amap said it was the first time the Moroccan troops, who until now had taken a supporting role, had taken part in fighting. It quoted a report from a front-line commander as saying the Moroccan soldiers held firm during the fighting, allowing Zairean troops to advance.

About 50 Egyptian Air Force pilots and technicians arrived here today to assist the Zaire Air Force. A spokesman for the Egyptians said they would

French families quit after Polisario raid

Nouakchott, May 2.—Mauritanian and French aircraft were today taking 449 wives and children of French technicians and children of French technicians from the mining town of Zouerate after yesterday's dawn attack by Saharan guerrillas in the Polisario movement. Polisario and his wife were killed. Six other French nationals, including a woman, are missing, believed kidnapped.

The raid marked a new turn in the desert guerrilla war being waged by the Saharan guerrilla movement, Polisario, against the French and Moroccan forces in the desert. The Polisario forces, which are based in Mauritania, ordered the evacuation of the French and Moroccan forces from the town of Zouerate. The French and Moroccan forces were forced to leave the town of Zouerate. The Polisario forces, which are based in Mauritania, ordered the evacuation of the French and Moroccan forces from the town of Zouerate.

French families quit after Polisario raid

The extent of the damage inflicted by Polisario is still not known but initial reports said the town's power station had been damaged and petrol tanks had caught fire. Authoritative sources said Mauritania troops counterattacked against the guerrillas 24 miles north of Zouerate. The Polisario forces, which are based in Mauritania, ordered the evacuation of the French and Moroccan forces from the town of Zouerate. The French and Moroccan forces were forced to leave the town of Zouerate.

Uganda airlifting coffee to avoid delays

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi, May 2.

Uganda has started a coffee airlift, which will take up to 360 tons of coffee a day to Djibouti for shipment from there to Europe.

The airlift has been arranged by unnamed European coffee merchants, who have bought several thousand tons of Ugandan coffee on the basis of delivery in Kampala. Seaboard World Airlines, a United States company, has been hired to fly the coffee.

The airlift is being used to overcome delays in surface transport in East Africa.

Rhodesia's sanctions-busting fair shows whites are confident of their future

From Michael Knipe, Bulawayo, May 2.

Eighty-three years ago, Dr Leander Starr Jameson stood on the steps of a Bulawayo hotel named after the Maxim gun which helped quell the Matabele and said: "My job is to declare this town open, gentlemen. This I now do. There's plenty of whisky and soda inside, so come on in."

Today, in spite of the strain of economic sanctions, the guerrilla war and the prospect of black majority rule, Bulawayo exudes a similar, bluff confidence in the future.

Its annual trade fair—a dazzling display of Rhodesia's sanctions-busting ingenuity—is now in progress. Last year there were a lot of empty stands, but this year, appropriate to the theme, "a show of confidence," the fair is packed with home-made exhibits, from railway wagons to plastic baths, electric motors and 220,000 foot-berth cabin cruisers, the organizer, Mr Basil Watts, expects it to produce about £2m of orders.

"We're terribly grateful to Harold Wilson," he said. "If he hadn't imposed sanctions, we wouldn't be where we are today—self-sufficient in virtually everything."

Mr Watts, a Johannesburg-born Rhodesian by choice for 20 years, explains proudly that 200 of the industrial items on show are made to world standard specification.

The range and quality of products certainly makes the cockiness of Mr Watts and his exhibitors understandable. Presumably, beneath it lies some nagging uncertainty.

No black nationalist leaders were invited to the opening ceremonies at the trade fair, for example, and there have been no serious attempts to convey the black nationalist viewpoint to the white public. So most whites tend to shrug vaguely when asked how they view the transfer of power and few of them appear to regard it as particularly imminent.

Cecil Rhodes is buried 30 miles south of Bulawayo among the massive granite rock outcrops of the Matopos and his ghost seems to have a stronger influence over Bulawayo than it does over Salisbury.

Rhodes's motto was equal rights for every civilized man south of the Zambesi, and he defined a civilized man as one white or black, who had sufficient education to write his name, had some property or who worked.

Few whites seem to perceive, or care, how far from this principle the Rhodesian Front Government has strayed and thus the view of a constitutional settlement is confused. According to one sceptical Bulawayoite who settled from Scotland 25 years ago, "those whites who see the need for a settlement don't think there will be one and the rest don't want one."

The conflict of opinion is encompassed by two of Bulawayo's members of Parliament, Mr Dennis Fawcett Phillips, a 66-year-old mining consultant, who came here from Surrey in 1930 and Mr Paddy Shields, a 43-year-old Irish-born railwayman who came here 25 years ago.

Mr Fawcett Phillips is a Colonel Blimpish figure who condemns Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, for "always having been a multi-racialist at heart". He believes Rhodesians, black



This was Granada Television's advertisement in September 1955 when Independent Television started.

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IRAN AIR
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Mountain of rice disrupts Guyana airport

Georgetown, May 2.—Guyana has piled drying rice on an airport runway and blocked off highways with it in an effort to store and dry out a bumper harvest, according to Rice Board officials.

The rice mountain has closed down the airport and highways in Essequibo county, west of here, and blocked also highways in the Commewee region.

Because of the good weather, rice was being harvested in such quantities that the country's mills could not cope with it. An added factor was the high moisture content of the rice—

President Amin to mediate for Ethiopians

President Amin of Uganda yesterday agreed to an Ethiopian request that he should try to solve problems between Ethiopia and its neighbours, Sudan and Somalia.

Uganda radio reported in a broadcast monitored by Reuters in London.

The radio said that Ethiopia's military Government had sent Major Mawad Zacharia as a special envoy to brief the Ugandan leader on the situation and seek his advice.

Friction between Ethiopia and its neighbours has been growing worse in recent weeks.

Congress Party loses power in Indian state

Delhi, May 2.—The Congress Party, which recently lost power in national elections, has lost its majority in the Manipur state Legislative Assembly in eastern India, following the defection of 26 party legislators, including four junior ministers, to the Janata Party.

With this, the strength in the Assembly of the Janata Party, winners at the national elections, has gone up to 31 with an effective strength of 59. One seat is vacant.

A Janata Party government is now expected to be formed in the state.—Agence France-Press.

£30m for house improvements

By the end of the Tories' last period in office private sector housing starts had dropped to the lowest level in 100 years. Because of a mortgage famine created by a reckless monetary policy the industry could not even sell those homes it had already built. Some 100,000 people were homeless when Labour came to power in 1974.

Little support for Liberal's Bill

Papers not destroyed to

times, Lord Elynn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, said during question time exchanges.

He added that the possibility of Lord Bethell — Historians and others are deeply concerned at the system under which public records

historian to an unacceptable extent.

The process that now takes place of "weeding out", following the

never been established in many times, but the possibility that has happened cannot, of course, be excluded.

Lord Elwyn-Jones—It is not the practice of the Government to order the destruction of official documents which relate to contro-

Food rises by 84.8 pc: selective freezes

Wide support for stand against Ulster strike

has had to suffer so much for so long. But equally I am convinced that what the United Ulster Action Council is doing and proposes to do is not in the least unimprovements. A stoppage would distract the security forces from their efforts against Provisional IRA, who have recently suffered some

Mr. Mason—I hope he will not take that too far because there are many many loyalists leaders, especially the leaders of every major loyalist party in Northern Ireland, who are working there, by necessity, work in small groups, some time, individually. They should be supported and helped at a time of intimidation.

Mr. Mason—I know what he is talking about. But this intimidation problem is serious. It is even

The Government will not be coerced. They will help the community to find a way out of the current dead-end building. The Government are supported in this by all the other political parties in Northern Ireland, and by the trade union and employers organisations, and of whom have come forward to protest and support.

The Government will deal firmly with any disruptive action that

Prospects for radical change in farm policy

the main reason the appalling domestic inflation for which the Government is responsible is not being kept under control. I will be confident that people like coffee and tea are not going to rise in the EEC?

Mr Hattersley: He must decide what point he wants to make. I have said there are three reasons why the Government must do this. The first is that it is the only way to ensure that the Government can do what it wants to do. The second is that it is the only way to ensure that the Government can do what it wants to do. The third is that it is the only way to ensure that the Government can do what it wants to do.

who have courageously stood up and opposed this type of conduct in the Congress. On the other hand, the disorder, which may be planned, it is true that one of the leaders of the democratic Unionist Party himself has embarked on that and it is to be expected that he will continue to do so.

Mr Gerard Fitt (Belfast, West, SDLP): The presence of the Prime Minister and Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition should indicate

and can be penetrating. Though many leaders of religion, the Congress, Ordinance, Ministers, CBI and political leaders have stood up courageously against the civil strife which may be on the tomorrow, and possibly intimidation, who knows what might develop. But I think it is important that if people are to picket with the intention of intimidation, this is illegal.

Promised new charter for rural transport to allow local initiative

when everyone else realized that they were being taken for the biggest ride in political and transport history. If their words on petrol were correct, the people of Australia meant that they would support the Conservative motion.

The least the Government could do was not to stand in the way of

Mr James Spicer (West Dorset, t) said that instead of a more am-
phibious national bus system he
would like to see county, district
and parish councils working co-

Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport (Teesside, Stockton, Lab.), said the record of the 1959 county councils was disappointing. There were cases where money was available for transport and the county councils chose not to spend it. In many rural areas the county councils were not doing for public transport and never had.

The problem of rural transport had been discussed in the House on the 10th July, and the full resources available to the Government on transport he hoped would be made known in the near future to make provision for the rural areas. This would be practical help in maintaining bus services and avoiding heavy subsidies which might otherwise occur. For his part, he hoped that the Government would not have to ask the House to await the White Paper.

Mr Caerwyn Iwan (Brecon and Radnor, Lab.) said running a car

New MPs
Mr Austin Mitchell, who has been elected for Labour at the by-election in the constituency of

He said the Duke of Montrose, a peer of Parliament, appeared to have been obstructed and denied access to this country and therefore to Parliament during the session of Parliament. The Duke, that under Standing Order 22 the Duke was deemed to have leave of absence did not seem to affect the principle.

may arise if the Duke of Montrose is allowed here concerning rebellion against her Majesty and the crime of high treason.

Lord Pearl—I will look into the matter and make a statement.

Lord Lovat (C)—The Duke Montrose fought against Hitler in the last war. He stood as a barrier against communism in Africa and it is the most disgraceful case.

It is (he said) a principle of Parliament that we should have the right to the attendance of our members and attendants. It does seem a little odd in the light of the numbers of people who we have had visiting this country last year.

they can give us. and apparently some strange people who may come this year.

double standards that I have come across in 45 years in this House. Lord Peart—A lot of us did fight against Hitler but that is not the issue. It is a matter that is considered as privilege.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Criminal Law Bill.
second reading. Debate on case of Mr
Agge and Mr Rosenbalt.

House of Lords
Debate on direct elections to the
European Assembly. Motion on humble
address to be presented to the Queen.

• save embarrassment

The process that now takes place of "weeding out", following the recommendations of the Grieg Committee, and the procedure of establishing a department to get rid of matters like duplicate copies or strictly subordinate and routine

material within a period of five years. If the material is not destroyed then it is kept for a further 20 years and at that point there is consideration of the historical criterion, but I have no reason to believe that at either of these stages is there destruction of documents because their survival would cause or could cause political or

The fact that the Cabinet Office still holds the Profumo papers despite Lord Denning's view that they should be destroyed is evi-

Lord Paget of Northampton (Lab.) raised a matter of privilege in regard to the banning of the Duke of Montrose, a former Rhodesian prime minister, from the House of Lords. The Duke had been expelled from the House of Lords for his role in the Rhodesian war of independence. The Duke had been expelled from the House of Lords for his role in the Rhodesian war of independence. The Duke had been expelled from the House of Lords for his role in the Rhodesian war of independence.

The further 20 years the experts concerned tend to keep what is important rather than what is run of the mill.

Lord Elynn-Jones—I am sure the test that is applied in the preservation of letters is not as these tediousness? Jolly good, then we will keep them. I am sure that is not the approach of responsible civil servants, that documents

It is (he said) a principle of Parliament that we should have the right to the attendance of our members and to such advice as they can give us.

has attended to some men to get the whole question of petrol tax.

Lord last week, and Mr Timoteo Smith, who won Asford for the Conservatives, were introduced.

Duke of Montrose

Lord Peart of Worthington, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House—Lord Paget has raised an important question concerning the

Lord Peart—I will take this in turn.

Lord Lee of Newton (Lab)—When the 1928 Act was passed,

Privileges of this House. This is the matter which the House would expect an honorable member to raise with the Speaker and with the leave of the House I propose to take it away and look into the matter.

Lord Carrington, Leader of the Opposition peers—Would he per-
sonally speak to his colleagues in the
Foreign Office, Home Office
who are responsible for this ban on
the Duke of Montrose?

Lord Leighton—The Duke of
Montrose may arise if the Duke of Montrose
is allowed here concerning rebellion
against her Majesty and the
crime of high treason.

Lord Leighton will look into the
matter and make a statement.

Lord Lovat (C)—The Duke of
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[illegible]

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Lord Wigoder on today's Second Reading of the Criminal Law Bill

Criminal justice: how to make a good Bill even better

The Criminal Law Bill reaches its Second Reading in the House of Commons today after discussions lasting 11 days in the House of Lords, during which over 200 amendments were inserted.

This is a major measure affecting the whole administration of our criminal justice and, accordingly, it is not surprising that it is since its journey through Parliament began, there is much scope yet for substantial and useful additions.

Part I, which deals with conspiracy, follows the report of the Law Commission. It endeavours, not always in the most felicitous language, to codify the common law, and it provides, for the first time, that the maximum sentence for conspiracy to commit a specific offence should not exceed the maximum for that offence. This, for example, would have benefited the Shireburn Two. The sentence for conspiracy to defraud is left at large—although it requires a close reading of Sections 1, 3, and 5 to discover this.

The only other common law offences preserved are those of conspiracy to corrupt public morals, and to outrage public decency and, having regard to the judicial criticism which has been levelled at these two offences, it is to be hoped that they will not long survive.

Trespass and violence

Part II of the Bill makes certain forms of trespass and violence offences. They are those where violence is used to secure entry, where trespass of offence is used, where a person fails to leave at the request of the "displaced residential occupier" (e.g., a return home) or on a diplomatic premises, or on a diplomatic premises.

It will be noted that the usual type of squat by the desperately homeless in derelict property is not made a crime, nor is the ordinary form of student or

industrial sit-in. There is bound to be pressure, particularly from hard-pressed local authorities, to extend the scope of criminal trespass, but it may be thought desirable that the Government's view should prevail, and that those who are not specifically protected in the Bill should be left—as at present—to their civil remedies.

Part III of the Bill is in many ways the most far-reaching, and of the most general interest. It seeks primarily to give effect to some of the main recommendations of the James Committee on the Redistribution of Business between the Crown and Magistrates' Courts.

It therefore proposes that in future, instead of the present confused position, there should be only three classes of offence—those triable only on indictment, those triable only summarily, and those triable either way. With the latter category, the defendant has a right of election to go for trial, and subject to that the magistrates court has a general discretion.

Difficulties arise as to which offences are to be included in which category, and many of these are due to the inadequate information that exists as to the resources available. It is known that at the crown court the average delay after commitment is between seven and eight weeks. This is not unreasonable, bearing in mind the many steps that have to be taken by both the prosecution and the defence in preparing the case, and that the average figure is much distorted by the occasional very long delay—sometimes a year or more—where, for example, a defendant fails to surrender to his bail.

What is not known with any accuracy is the average delay before a case is heard and disposed of at a magistrates court—but certainly in the major cities it can be many weeks, if not months, before two or three consecutive days can be found in which to hear a contested summary trial.

Against this background, the Government gracefully abandoned at an early stage the pro-



Lord Wigoder: there is much scope yet for substantial additions

posal to deprive a defendant of his right to jury trial where a theft was alleged of an amount of less than £20.

There remain two other types of offence, namely assaults on the police, and making improper use of a telephone, which are on the part of the Bill as it stands there will be no right of election, but in relation to which strong arguments were advanced in the House of Lords,

as to their essential suitability for decision by a jury.

At the same time, alterations have been made by the Bill to maximum sentences, particularly by way of increasing fines, of £1,000, are realistic.

It remains to be seen whether regard to efficiency and economy can be resolved, a good Bill will be made even better.

The opportunity has also been

taken to alter the law in relation to driving offences. Under the Bill, bad driving will in future be either "careless" (that is showing a deliberate disregard for the safety of other road users, or "careless" (ie negligent). The difficult concept of "dangerous" driving is being abolished.

There is one important procedural breakthrough in the Bill. Under clause 38, for the first time the Magistrates Courts Rules Committee will have power to make rules to provide at the magistrates court for the disclosure by the prosecution to the defence, in advance of the hearing, of the nature of their evidence. The clause as at present drafted is limited to offences triable either way, but the Government has undertaken to introduce in the Commons similar proposals relating to all summary offences.

Magistrates and power

The Commons might also want to consider two other matters which were not resolved in the Lords. One is the question of whether magistrates should have the power to send to prison those who are found to be in possession of cannabis or cannabis resin simply for their own use—on this the Government is awaiting the views of the advisory council. The other is the question raised in the James Committee, whose proposed solution did not find favour with the Government, as to how, where a formal commitment for trial takes place without consideration of the evidence, there can be avoided the situation in which such a commitment does take place without there being any evidence—the great waste of time and expense at the crown court.

If some of these outstanding problems can be resolved, a good Bill will be made even better.

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Raymond Fletcher

Flying the flag for British true grit

There was a time, not so long ago, when bigger was automatically assumed to be better. These were the days when architects ran out of space on their drawing boards as they designed increasingly gigantic blocks of flats; when a specialised breed of capitalist scrounged across continents, bolting and riveting differing enterprises together into structures that even now lack a commonly accepted name; and when it was the multi-national corporation, not the man, who seemed destined to inherit the earth.

By 1971, indeed, the American Senate's Finance Committee had calculated that, at the end of any given day in that year, the multi-nationals held about \$265 billion in short-term liquid assets. This pocket money, so to speak, amounted to "more than twice the total of that held by all international monetary institutions in the world on the same date. It was also roughly 1/25th of the United Nations budget for the whole year.

Even the promoters and beneficiaries of the cult of big business have, by this time, begun to wonder whether they controlled, or were in the control of, the monstrous organizations that had, in a way, created themselves. One giant corporation in the United States seemed to have a friend of mine to find out exactly what it did own. He made some interesting discoveries. Though the corporation was in the communications business, it had, in the course of its growth, absentee-mindedly acquired a logging company in the north-west which was doing quite well, in spite of the fact that nobody in the enterprise either knew or cared who owned it. There were many other virtually ownerless companies in the corporate portfolio, technically controlled by a board which had no idea they even existed.

Big is not always bad, say many, but it is invariably beautiful; but if this nation really wants to transform itself and its economy from a polluting old carcase into a Red Rover, it must, if it is to do so, only a small number of whom sit in Parliament, ought to look

for industrial and commercial growth points among the small enterprises that, astonishingly enough, are still being created and still manage to succeed.

Take, for example, the Canberra Furnishing Company, which was formed in my constituency the other week. None of my readers will have heard of it, except the Under-Secretary of State for Industry, Mr. Bob Cryer, and I doubt whether the names of those who formed it will ever become household ones. But what they have done, and how and why they did it, I regard as important.

Last October, the workers in an Eastwood factory producing lounge units, bedroom furniture, coffee tables and the like were informed by the parent group that the factory was to be closed. It had once been flourishing and profitable concern, employing about 1,000 people, but the work force had dwindled down to merely 300 when the corporate wielded the axe.

Those on whom it fell could have done many predictable things, including protest-marching, leaving bricks through the parent company's windows and setting down idly to what so many of the petite bourgeoisie mistakenly regard as a comfortable life on the dole. They were justifiably angry, but they did none of the things that angry workers are supposed to expect to do. They decided to market their skills as an enterprise of their own creation.

It had to be a shrewd move. They could not run the Eastwood factory, in view of its size and consequent high overheads. They decided to begin a collective search for premises, markets and capital. A local businessman, Mr. Graham Locking, was infected with their determination and joined the enterprise. The Canberra Furnishing Company was born. It had to be a shrewd move. They could not run the Eastwood factory, in view of its size and consequent high overheads. They decided to begin a collective search for premises, markets and capital. A local businessman, Mr. Graham Locking, was infected with their determination and joined the enterprise. The Canberra Furnishing Company was born.

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Bernard Levin

Playing the game of postman's knock with the strict letter of the law

The proposal to make one tiny, almost invisible, dent in its wall of complacency naturally leads those in charge to fear the consequences

On Friday, the House of Commons will be taking the Report of the Unfair Contract Terms Bill. Don't go away: my unpromising *hors d'œuvre* is to be followed by some good rich meat, including a great deal of carefully-chosen abuse directed at our beloved Post Office.

The Bill is a Private Member's measure, introduced by Mr. Michael Ward, Labour MP for Peterborough, with the instigation and encouragement of the Consumers' Association. It will complete the work done by a similar Act, passed in 1973, which did for goods what the present Bill seeks to do for services. The 1973 legislation made it largely impossible for those who sell or supply (not just their own) to the public to avoid liability for defects in what they sell by announcing in advance that they refuse all such liability. The new measure, which has all-party support and is in principle favoured by the Government, thus ensuring the provision of efficient parliamentary time for the completion of its remaining stages, seeks to cover the sale of services in much the same way as was achieved by the earlier statute for goods, and when it is all over, the amount of small print will avail.

That will be the position of practically all suppliers of services who act under the terms of any express or implied con-

tract. Exclusion clauses will still be allowed if they are "reasonable." What the courts have to do is to decide whether they are. Very good tests of what is and is not reasonable in the parallel question of negligence, but in general the buyer of services, as well as the buyer of goods, will now be secure in the knowledge that the seller can no longer avoid legal responsibility for what he is providing merely by declaring that he refuses to accept it.

Except, if the Post Office has its unlovely way, the Post Office. The Post Office, it will be noted, is at present in a very jolly position of having virtually no legal liability to its customers no matter what it does to them. (I believe that if a Post Office engineer connects your telephone so incompetently that it promptly electrocutes your wife, or even your cat, you have no legal redress.) The angle is based on the fact that in law the Post Office does not enter into any contractual relationship with what are laughably known as its customers for the provision of what are even more comically referred to as its services.

Instead, the Post Office's activities are framed by certain Statutes, and it is called upon to do, and for which it charges huge sums of money, armed with enormous powers to com-

pel its customers to do what it wants them to do, to pay what it wants them to pay, and to keep a civil tongue in their heads. If they know what is good for them, the Post Office on its side is totally immune from any form of reciprocity. It does not have to deliver your letters unless it feels like doing so, it does not have to supply you with a telephone merely because you pay for having one, and it does not have to keep the thing in working order when (by grace and favour) it installs one. (It is supposed to "have regard to efficiency and economy." As Randolph Churchill used to say: "be bloody-ha.")

Be it noted that the Post Office's financial extends far beyond the circumstances in which, as a public utility, it is bound not only to take care not to cause their customers loss or damage, but to carry out the work efficiently and properly, and the courts will find for a plaintiff who can show that, even if no damage was caused, the services supplied were of an unreasonably poor quality. Obviously, the Post Office can-

not be expected to undertake to deliver the mails, speedily, or indeed at all, if it cannot be assured that it will be fairly paid. Yet it is expected to keep promises it makes to those who keep theirs by paying their bills on time. It cannot be, indeed, so; certainly believe it ought to be expected to do these things, but I realise that, rather than enter into obligations and keep them, the Post Office would prefer to go out of business altogether.

So be it. But why should not the Post Office at any rate be liable to its customers if negligence can be proved? Or rather: why should it be legally permitted to avoid such liability? For that is its present position: Section 29 of the Post Office Act confers immunity on the Post Office for even its most negligent actions. And an amendment to the Unfair Contract Terms Bill, passed in committee, would repeal that Section and leave the Post Office in the position of all other trading concerns.

I must make it clear that if the amendment says in the Bill, the Post Office will still not be liable to you if it fails to deliver your letter or connect your telephone. It will only be liable if you can prove before a court of law that its failure was the result of its negli-

gence. In view of the fact that such proof will be almost impossible to provide, the Post Office will remain fairly secure. Yet it is expected to keep promises it makes to those who keep theirs by paying their bills on time. It cannot be, indeed, so; certainly believe it ought to be expected to do these things, but I realise that, rather than enter into obligations and keep them, the Post Office would prefer to go out of business altogether.

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The Times Diary

An astonishing literary event

Ion Trewin, our literary editor and a former PHS, is newly returned from the Jerusalem Book Fair. He reports:

The fair is astonishing. By any normal publishing criteria it should not exist, the market being limited by the state of Middle Eastern politics and Israel's population of three million.

Yet this year's fair, the eighth was the largest ever with 43 countries, 1,013 publishers and at least 30,000 books involved. Unlike other international book fairs it is not mainly for the trade to negotiate rights and deals: each day the public is admitted and despite an adult entry charge of £1, whole families (including babies in arms and dogs on leashes) pour in. Books are devoured as if there is no tomorrow, particularly by children. I saw a horde pulling Noddy in Hebrew off the shelves and only reluctantly putting them back when they had been read from beginning to end.

UNESCO puts the Israelis top of the book buying peoples, beating the Japanese and Scandinavians for first place. The strong Jewish spirit in international publishing, par-

ticularly in the United States, ensures the trade's attendance in force, but there are other reasons too. From Britain, despite a cut in the Department of Trade's support as an economy measure, more publishers than ever are tending although often with only half an eye on the fair. Pat Newman, head of the Corpi paperback firm, ended a world tour in Jerusalem, flying in from New Zealand, but he also intended to recover from a month of accumulated jet-lag by going on to the Red Sea for a fishing holiday. He was not alone to use the fair as an excuse for a holiday.

As one might expect books with a Jewish or Middle Eastern flavour monopolize the stands, but not all the titles were new. How often, I missed, had Faber's display in past years shown 700 Years of Oriental Carpets, originally published by them in 1970? With so many countries—and therefore languages—participating, the same books occurred again and again in translation. Topping the list seemed to be Golda Meir's *My Life* in English, Danish, French, Finnish and another half-dozen

languages, but fiction also reappeared at every turn and not just Leon Uri's *Exodus* or James Michener's *The Source*. Patrick White's *Voss*, a title not obscure in translation, seemed to be everywhere.

The local publishers varied from the orthodox to the provocative. Prosefictions was never far away. As the Jerusalem Post pointed out there was even an East Jerusalem publisher offering Catholic missals in Arabic. In contrast to Britain's creative fiction appears to flourish with even an unknown, expecting to sell 2,000-3,000 copies in hardback in Hebrew.

A British stand attracting much attention was staged by a group of enterprising antiquarian booksellers who had brought their local interest stock, including maps, architectural and archaeological tomes. The British grapevine soon offered the news that business was booming in prices often on the generous side. A rapid revision upwards in some cases did nothing to hinder business.

The most powerful British representation was on the other side of the ground floor with Lord Berners and Alevya Birch from the Granada group and Tom Maschler and Graham C. Greene from Jonathan Cape on adjoining shelves. Whereas the antiquarians' wares included Cape's original edition of T. E. Lawrence's *The Mint*, Maschler's big current offering was *Shakespeare's Christmas* (a co-edition with the *Christians* (to be

published in conjunction with the ITV television series later this year). An obvious seller in a city that brings in hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year, Maschler was confident by the fair's end that a Hebrew edition was in prospect too.

New language

The Israeli writer I met work in Hebrew with English language editions translated by other hands. Probably the best known internationally is the novelist Amos Oz. Born in Jerusalem in 1939, he has lived on a kibbutz for nearly 20 years, because, as he says, "where else would I know 400 people so intimately, be party to their hopes, their fears, be part of them, yet also an observer. I am in a sense a double agent."

Writing in Hebrew may be limiting in potential readership, but to Oz it is a language full of vitality, and still in its first flush of youth. Indeed one forgets that Hebrew although an ancient language has only been a secular, spoken tongue for less than a century. Oz likes it to Elizabethan English, whereas English today is "an elderly lady one has to treat with respect." As an example of this he cites his own novels which in Hebrew run to 40,000 words, but in translation into English expand to 70,000. Oz's own English is so fluent that I asked him if he had ever considered translating himself. But no, he relies on Nicholas de Lange who is credited as collaborator. "The trouble is,"

says Oz, "if I know something isn't quite right that's as far as I can go. I can't provide an alternative."

I put this difficult business of translation to Carmi, a poet of different background to Oz who was brought up in a Hebrew-speaking New York family. He has just completed the Penguin Anthology of Hebrew Verse to be published next year with the Hebrew on one half of each page and prose translation in English on the other.

But Carmi is also the translator himself of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and currently *Measure for Measure*. English is a good medium for Shakespeare, he feels because it is possible to duplicate the metre, whereas his latest project, Gloriana's *Madness of Chivalry* is providing unbridled problems. But it is a slow business. He calculated that his output for the Shakespeare plays is the equivalent of only eight lines a day.

Survivors

The most moving event of the fair occurred at a late-evening party for a remarkable book with the title, typically evocative of recent Israeli literature, *A Will to Survive*. John Phillips, a Life photographer and Protestant, travelled with the Arab Legion during its assault on the Old Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem in May 1948. He photographed the

surrender, the looting and the wounded. Two years ago Teddy Kollek met Phillips in New York. They discussed his pictures and Kollek suggested that a search should be undertaken to find what the people in the pictures from 1948 were doing now.

With the backing of the Jerusalem Foundation, Phillips and the search began. The survivors were scattered wide, but many were still in Jerusalem or the surrounding area and eventually 51 were located. Phillips photographed them again and interviewed them. The book juxtaposes the pictures of both eras—street scenes then and now, the people themselves—with the survival stories. Age apart, the major difference between 1948 and now is how much better fed everyone appears.

The setting for the party was the story of the more poignant—a small auditorium in the heart of the rebuilt Jewish quarter, unrecognizable from the war-ravaged city of Phillips's 1948 pictures. Here were the survivors, many still disfigured from 1948, and many brought together again for the first time as a result of the project. The time for tears and emotions had passed. The survivors sat quietly, formally, even shyly, round the room with coffee, tea and cakes as Phillips, from the stage at the end of the room, handed out individual sets of pictures ("This is the first time," he remarked, "that

a photographer has ever kept his promise to send a photo graph to his subject, and I'm 29 years late!"). It reminded me of a school speech day, each survivor coming up, shaking his head and saying, "I've got it, I've got it, I've got it." Someone suggested a group photograph. No one moved. Then one survivor, a woman, made a move towards the stage. I suppose I should be the first to step forward." The ice was broken. The picture was taken.

Shortages

Once visitors to Israel were begged to take suitcases of consumer goods. Today there are only a few missing essentials, a first secretary at the British embassy is searching for brake drums for his Mini; a British Council official in Tel Aviv deplores the lack of Marmite in absence of which he says, "I suppose I should be the first to step forward." The ice was broken. The picture was taken.

There seemed not a trade unrepresented. One shop near the Holy Sepulchre already had a sign saying: "Get Your Christmas Greetings Now." I resisted. El Al maintenance men over-ruled a work to rule over shift work. So who benefited? None other than British Airways, freshly back in business after their maintenance men troubles. Their only Sunday Tri-Star flight from Tel Aviv had not a seat to spare.

PHS

Le Monde
LA STAMPA
THE TIMES
DIE WELT

Europa

On the eve of his visit to London Mr Carter reviews his first 100 days in office. "I see no way that we can have a successful resolution of East-West problems without the full understanding and participation of our allies and friends in Europe", he says in this interview with the four Europa newspapers

President's progress



Quite a few people in Europe are puzzled and some are refreshed by the way you are going about governing. How do you describe your first hundred days in office?

I have been pleased so far at the response of the American people to our administration. I think we have attempted to address ourselves to some very difficult questions which in the past have been either ignored or delayed.

Last week I presented our energy proposals to the American people. We have evolved and laid before the Soviet Government a comprehensive reduction proposal in nuclear armaments. We have begun to reduce the effort to sell conventional arms around the world. We have spent out a strong position, which has not been unanimously well accepted, on non-proliferation of nuclear explosive capability.

I have, I think, accurately mirrored the American people's beliefs on public espousal of human rights. We have begun to reorganize the nation's government and introduced proposals which will ultimately transform our welfare system and our income tax structure. I have made some, sometimes controversial, decisions to prevent the raising of trade barriers and have had an almost unprecedented stream of distinguished visitors from other countries. This past week, four foreign leaders came to see me.

So in all of these areas I think we have been fairly successful, either in beginning efforts, or in some few accomplishments at this early time. The relationship between myself and the American people is very good now.

How about your relations with Congress, and with the business community and the unions?

I think the relationship with Congress has been steadily improving as we have got to know one another. The first time I was ever in the House of Representatives was on Wednesday night (April 20) when I made my speech. I had never visited there before. But I believe that within the Democratic leadership now there is a growing sense of mutual understanding and trust and consultation that has become a habit, and a good one.

I think the business community has begun to recognize that my background as a businessman will help to colour the decisions that I make about economics, and I think that I have a

fairly good relationship with labour, as well.

We have got a long way to go. I have a lot to learn. We are studying how to restore normal relations with governments where relations have been strained in the past. We are exploring some possibilities for the resolution of the historic conflict in the Middle East. We are trying to work closely with Britain's leaders in describing a proper role for us in southern Africa.

I think we have got a possibility at the meetings in London more strongly to establish my personal friendship and understanding with the European leaders as well. So, I feel good about the administration so far.

Since you took office we have the feeling in Europe that the relationships between the United States and Europe are getting the same priority as the American-Soviet relationship. What is your general approach regarding Europe and, more precisely, regarding the European Community?

Some of your predecessors seemed to fear that a united Europe, if it comes to be, might be a competitor, might be going against American political and economic interests. Do you share those fears?

No, I think that within a hundred hours of my becoming President, the Vice-President had begun consultations with the leaders of many nations in Europe. I have already met Mr Callaghan, and leaders of Portugal, the European Community and Nato. I will meet the other leaders within the next two weeks, and this will probably be the only trip that I shall take outside our country this year. I have no other plans at this time.

I think all these items describe my deep concern about good relations with Europe. I see no way that we can have a successful resolution of East-West problems without the full comprehension, understanding and participation of our allies and friends in Europe.

We have, in addition to that, demonstrated in my budget proposals to the Congress an increasing emphasis on military capability within Nato. And I intend to stay over after the conference with the heads of state to meet the Nato leaders, as well.

The people of our country, regardless of who happens to be president, have a natural sense that our historical ties and our future are intimately

related with the European countries.

The other part of your question is that I strongly favour, perhaps more than my predecessors, a close interrelationship among the nations of Europe, the European Community in particular.

We have a legitimate reticence about trying to interfere, but I will do everything I can within the bounds of propriety to strengthen those natural ties—economically, politically and militarily—that do exist among the countries of Europe, and to strengthen them in the future. When the nations involved consider it appropriate, I would certainly welcome the absorption within the European Community of Portugal and Spain.

So I think that already I have both come to realize and also have begun to act on the premise of a strong Europe as essential to our own good future, and have recognized the importance of the bilateral relationships with the nations involved.

Do you think that Nato is still a viable alliance and do you foresee or wish any change? Do you think the Europeans should do more in their own defence?

Yes, I think the Nato military alliance is a cornerstone of our own national security. I think the degree of cooperation that has evolved from Nato since its inception has helped to tie our nations together in political and economic and social ways. So the military alliance has been a core around which our good progress has been enhanced.

I have been concerned about the need for a more fair sharing of military supplies and weapons among the countries involved. It ought to be a two-way street and to the extent that we can have common understandings about standardizing weapons systems, I believe that we will increase the portion that does come from the European suppliers.

I would hope that within the next 12 months the other leaders and I could acquire a renewed commitment to Nato principles and improvements on a multilateral basis. I am quite reluctant to move unilaterally in this because I am so new. I have a lot to learn from the leaders of France and Germany and Britain and other countries where they have been involved so long.

The last point is that the differences that we have had among us can be resolved only among the heads of state. The Leopard tank and the Awacs

system are matters of tactical importance but they do not endanger the total commitment of our countries to share in our future security. Although France is not a complete partner in the process, as far as mutual defence is concerned, that is not a matter of great concern to us.

We have among the American people an almost unanimous belief that Nato is a very beneficial commitment to us. So I see no danger of a deterioration in the Nato alliance. That leads inevitably to the question of the political situation, certainly in the European countries. How do you react to the growth of the Marxist left, so-called Eurocommunists in Italy and France? How would you react to the possibility of coalition governments in a member's country, with a role for the communists in it?

I think the first premise on which we function is that the European citizens are perfectly capable of making their own decisions about political matters through the free election process.

Within my own memory, this is the first time that all the Nato countries have been democracies. We prefer that the governments involved continue to be democratic and that no totalitarian elements become either influential or dominant. I would hope that the democratic parties would prevail during the coming years in the struggle for political authority.

I believe that the best way we can prevent the enhancement of communist political strength in Europe is to show that democratically controlled governments can function effectively and openly and with humaneness and a genuine and continuing comprehension of what people need and expect from government.

To the extent that we fail as democracies, as democratic leaders, to live up to the ideals that we exemplify in our commitments, to that extent we open the opportunity for communist parties to be more successful.

To summarize, I think each country has to make its own decisions in the electoral process. I am pleased at the enhanced degree of commitment to the democratic governments. We certainly prefer that the democratic parties prevail in the future, and we can encourage that process, not by interfering in electoral procedures within

continued on page IV

We can't go on meeting like this

On December 18, 1971 President Nixon had an important announcement to make. After nearly a week of negotiations in the cavernous halls of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington the finance ministers of the world had agreed on a new system of fixed exchange rates to end the period of floating which had been provoked by the United States decision to devalue the dollar.

The new system, he argued, ought to bring about a new period of stability and prosperity. It was, he said in a phrase showing the remarkable instinct for inexactitude which was later to cause him such trouble, "the most significant monetary agreement in the history of the world".

One of the men who helped to produce that agreement, which lasted for about six months, will be in London later this week (May 7 and 8) making another attempt at setting the financial and economic problems of the world to rights. This time he comes not as a finance minister—relegated to an overflow meeting for much of the time if past experience is to be trusted—but as the head of his Government, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of France, is to be a key figure in the latest, continuously proliferating, series of meetings which has gripped the world this decade.

As the world economy has slowed, so the pace of the world conference circuit has speeded. In the past two years, apart from the regular annual meetings of such bodies as the IMF, OECD and the more frequent ministerial sessions of the EEC, there has been a series of European summits of the kind which are increasingly turning a mere council of ministers into the sort of forum which cannot expect to take serious decisions on its own.

In Geneva, talks aimed at reducing trade barriers through an improved General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are now in their third year with no sign of progress on anything except the import of tropical products into industrialized countries, an issue where the clash of interests is not particularly strong.

Protectionism in favour of German banana growers is an issue with little electoral appeal. On the topics that matter, on the other hand, there is still no sign of agreement and rumblings of protectionism grow stronger.

Within the international monetary system countries have sought less and have thus been less disappointed. Most exchange rates now float freely, with no effort to impose the kind of fixed parties which were common until the early 1970s. This scheme has received official blessing in the form of an agreed statement that this is really what the world wants, which was issued after a meeting of the International Monetary Fund interim committee in Jamaica last year. Considering that the finance ministers were really so keen on the idea it is surprising that they and their officials sought to avoid it for so long, with high-level study groups finding ever more convoluted ways of maintaining fixed parties without actually admitting it.

Discussion of monetary affairs illustrates most strikingly the increasingly interdependent role which meetings have assumed as they get more frequent. No meetings are called nowadays to discuss a topic, reach a decision and then leave it to the governments of the world to administer.

Meetings today are of several kinds. Most of the established round of ministerial meetings are now essentially rubber stamp affairs and an occasion for spectacularly dull speech-making. The important decisions will have been worked out in a myriad official get-togethers over the year leading up to the formal session itself. If the problem is one which can be sorted out by officials, then it will be: if it cannot, then it is unlikely that a meeting of a hundred finance ministers will succeed where the officials have failed. It is thus better for everyone not to talk about the possible bones of contention and to concentrate instead on a general statement of principles on which all can agree.

continued on page II

On the contrary Solution à la Swift

Il y aurait, donc, trop d'ouvriers dans les usines et trop d'étudiants dans les universités. Heureusement il n'y a pas trop de bébés dans les maternités: autrement où les mettrait-on quand ils seraient plus grands.

On parle de créer de nouveaux emplois. Quelle manie. Il faudrait au contraire en supprimer quelques-uns parfaitement inutiles ou improductifs. Je pense toujours avec effarement au fantastique gaspillage d'énergie et d'intelligence humaines détournées pour le lancement d'une chaussette. Il faudrait ensuite partager les emplois qui restent entre tout le monde. Cela nous permettrait à tous de chômer un petit peu chaque jour pour aller, par exemple, à l'université. Le rendement de cinq ou six heures de bon travail étant sensiblement égal sinon meilleur à celui de huit heures de mauvais, et la quantité de mort quotidienne étant ainsi changée en qualité de la vie.

Cette modeste proposition, bien qu'elle me paraisse d'une logique éblouissante, est aussi saugrenue que celle de Swift pour alléger le fardeau des Irlandais. . . . rappelons que, à propos des enfants de ce malheureux pays, il proposait de les manger.

Pangloss

Invest where the energy is!

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Rich in people energy.

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Facts and figures

Productivity comes in from the cold

A source of satisfaction today is the degree of improvement in economic activity, more marked in some countries than others.

This is particularly true in the United States, where the latest figures have, without exception, confirmed last month's forecast that, after the cold spell and the resulting slowdown, the recovery would be very rapid when it came. In fact March saw a sharp rise of 1.4 per cent in industrial production and 2.4 per cent in retail sales.

To give a more striking illustration of the improvement, note the excellent state of the car market: nearly 1,100,000 cars were sold in March by domestic and foreign producers, an increase of nearly 10 per cent on March 1976 figures. Similarly, housing starts showed a sharp increase of 29 per cent on February, which takes the annual rate of production to 1,790,000 dwellings.

Given the importance of these two industries and the effect they have on many others, it is possible to have faith in the recovery and share the view of the United States authorities that the gross national product could well grow at 5.2 per cent (in annual terms) in the first quarter despite production lost because of the cold weather, and grow at 5 to 6 per cent in 1977 as a whole.

Unfortunately, although the effects of the cold spell have been easily overcome in output (and even unemployment), this seems very far from being the case with prices. Wholesale prices, and particularly farm prices, have risen sharply after the drought and the cold spell: 0.6 per cent in January, 0.9 per cent in February and 1.1 per cent in March. These rises exceed the most pessimistic forecasts.

The same goes for retail prices: 0.8 per cent in January and 1 per cent in February and 0.6 per cent in March, when food prices rose 2 per cent and vegetables 20 per cent. These give a rate of inflation in the United States of near to 10 per cent for the most recent quarter and more than 12 per cent for the past month.

Is it possible to remove seasonal effects of bad weather? In theory, yes. But in practice it is difficult, because of the psychological effects and impact on wages, and even more so because they come at a time of general recovery when the accent is on consumption. President Carter had promised a tax rebate of \$50 to every American, but has recently done an about-turn by giving up this scheme involving more than \$10,000m and reducing the Budget deficit by the amount, and he has also proposed a new plan of attack, strengthening the authority of the National Council for Prices and Incomes.

In West Germany, also, in recent months retail prices have been rising much faster than usual, which coincides with a strong spontaneous upswing in activity, as our graph shows. In January they rose 0.9 per cent, and in February 0.6 per cent, corresponding to an abnormally high annual rate of more than 9 per cent, also the result of seasonal influences.

This will be easier to control than in the United States. To begin with retail prices only rose by 0.3 per cent in March; in addition, the rise in wholesale prices (which was 0.6 per cent in January) slowed markedly to 0.1 per cent in February and in March has shown a decline of 0.2 per cent. Finally, and most important, West

	Rate of growth	Quality of growth		Maintenance of growth		
		Prices	Unemployment	Productive capacity	Foreign trade	Vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	●●●	●●●	○	●●●	●●●	●●●
FRANCE	○	○	○	○	○	○
ITALY	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRITAIN	○	○	○	○	○	○



Disappointment on the faces of West German union members.

Germany has carefully avoided taking inflationary measures which stimulate demand. A new problem has however arisen, stemming from the change in union attitudes which Mr Verter, president of the DGB, West German trade union organization, announced. The unions, which had agreed to moderate their wage claims to encourage investment and employment, have now voiced their strong disappointment with the persistent unemployment, and are threatening to go back on their undertaking.

Pressure from wages is starting to build up, as was pointed out at the time of the metal-workers agreement, where the union obtained an hourly increase of 6.9 per cent although the Government norm was closer to 5 per cent. There remains, therefore, some danger, even in the country with the reputation of being the most sensible.

While the stronger countries are faced again with the threat of inflation, the weaker countries, on the contrary, have achieved appreciable results. At any rate, this is true for two of them, France and Britain. Italy has still not come to grips with the problem: the Government, unions and management are having great difficulty in reaching agreement on ending the indexing system which makes any control over inflation so difficult through its multiplier effect.

A series of concessions, however, notable among them those obtained on March 30 by Signor Andreotti, whereby prices of newspapers and periodicals, transport and electricity are to be excluded from the index,

will make it possible to reduce the effect gradually. Now that the IMF loan of \$530m has been negotiated—and provided that the lira can be stabilized—Italy can stop the increase in the rate of inflation and set off along the path that Britain has already followed.

Britain has achieved better results; but the straitjacket of austerity which has lasted for two years now is becoming more and more uncomfortable, particularly for skilled manpower, middle management and technicians whose salaries have been restricted far more than those on lower rates because of the effect of flat-rate increases. They have shown their dissatisfaction by strikes like the one at British Leyland, in opposition to their union officials.

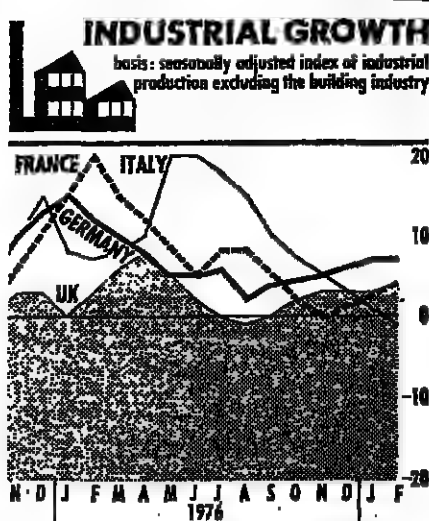
For these workers, and for all those whose wages have only increased by barely 9 per cent while prices have risen 16 per cent, some relaxation seems to be absolutely necessary. This is the reason for the search for an acceptable modus vivendi which would allow some flexibility within the framework of phase three of the Social Contract beginning on August 1, 1977, which would not endanger the essential achievements to date. It is this which led Mr Healey to revise his targets and give up the idea of reducing inflation to 10 per cent in the near future and think in terms of 13 per cent by the end of 1977.

France, too, has been induced to be less ambitious and reduce its initial hopes. M Barre—much more prudent than his predecessor at the Ministry of Finance, M Fourcade—has preferred to talk in terms of an official norm of 6.5 per cent rather than a target as such. Just as in Britain, a great deal has been achieved, even if the annual rate reached at the beginning of 1977 of scarcely 6 per cent inflation does seem unrealistic, since it was the result of a reduction in value-added tax.

A rate of 9 per cent, in line with the figure in February and March, is closer to the real state of developments, especially considering the international climate and the sharp rises in raw material prices which have not completely worked through into retail prices, either in France or elsewhere.

As Mr Blumenthal, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, recently recalled nostalgically it is a far cry from the time when the United States rate of inflation was a mere 1 or 2 per cent despite a very comfortable growth rate of 5 or 6 per cent. This may perhaps come again for America and the other Western countries, but not for some time, and much vigilance and patience is still required.

Maurice Bommensath



Industrial growth: In February the annual rate of industrial growth eased to 4 per cent in France and the United Kingdom and was rather higher in West Germany at 6 to 7 per cent. In Italy, on the other hand, production is still declining.

United States: comparative situation and influence

Industrial growth ●● (●)

Latest figures confirm the swift pick-up following the temporary setback caused by the cold spell. The index of industrial production rose 1.4 per cent in March, and retail sales rose 2.4 per cent; these support forecasts for a 5.2 per cent growth (in annual terms) in gnp in the first quarter of 1977.

Prices ○○ (○)

The threatened increase in the rate of inflation is taking shape. Retail prices rose 1 per cent in February and 0.6 in March. Record increases in wholesale prices of 0.6 per cent in January and 0.9 per cent in February were easily beaten by the rise of 1.1 per cent in March. Although some deterioration was expected after the bad weather, this is worse than the most pessimistic forecasts.

Unemployment ○ (○)

Unemployment as a percentage of the working population increased slightly from 7.3 to 7.5 per cent in February. Influenced by the bad weather and factory closures, in March it returned to 7.3 per cent. Total employment has increased by more than 800,000 in the past month, bearing out the figures on the economic recovery given above.

Productive capacity ● (●)

The latest investment forecasts, based on a survey, predict a rise in volume of 7 per cent between 1976 and 1977. But remember that President Carter has just abandoned tax relief plans designed to encourage investment.

Foreign trade ○○ (○)

The balance of trade is becoming more and more disturbing. In January and February there were deficits of \$1,870m and \$1,870m (both). Calculated job-off—the same basis as for the four European countries—the deficits become much worse, at \$2,500m and \$2,800m. March aggravates this with a deficit job-off of \$4,400m and job-off of \$3,900m.

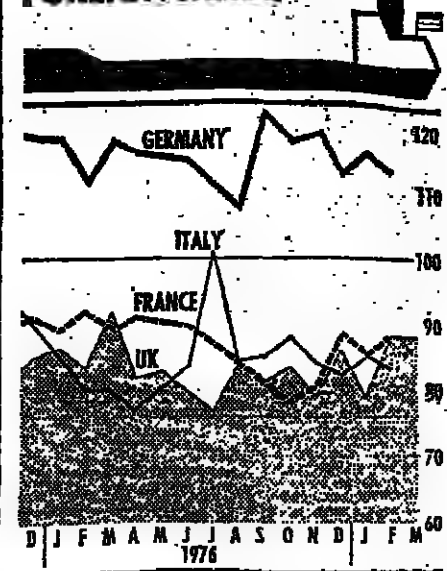
Influence on the four countries

Financial and monetary: United States: Interest rates are not only not rising, but there has been a slight relaxation in the money markets. Prime rate is still 6.25 per cent, and this has been an additional reason for the general decline in rates. The latter has been most obvious in the United Kingdom where the minimum lending rate is now down to 8 per cent (from 14 per cent on January 1) and also in Japan where the discount rate was reduced from 6.5 to 5 per cent. In France, on the other hand, there has been no change in the discount rate, although there has been some slight relaxation in the money market. There is no change in Italy.

Economic: The recovery of the United States has established itself and seems to be gathering momentum. At the same time, the high level of imports has produced increasing trade deficits. These are a source of worry to the United States but are favourable to other countries, particularly Japan. This source of help can, however, only be temporary and partial, and the strong countries must assist as soon as possible.

○ Poor ○○ Bad ● Fairly good ●● Good () Previous performance

FOREIGN TRADE



Foreign trade: In February the cover by exports of imports, calculated job-off and seasonally adjusted, stood at 10 per cent in West Germany, a fall from previous high levels of 120 per cent. In contrast, this ratio in France and the United Kingdom has risen to almost 90 per cent, maintaining this level in March; Italy has a somewhat lower ratio, barely 80 per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT



Unemployment: Unemployment as a percentage of the working population, seasonally adjusted, fell slightly in March from 5.85 to 5.80 per cent in United Kingdom and to less than 4.30 per cent in West Germany. In France, on the other hand, unemployment rose perceptibly from 5.05 to 5.15 per cent.

Saints and sinners



Etienne Davignon

"Industrial policy is an essential part of EEC life. This does not mean taking over the role of industry, but it does mean one should get an idea of what the concept of European autonomy calls for on the industrial plane. If nothing is done about it, the construction of Europe will be jeopardized."

These voluntarist views were expressed by Vicomte Etienne Davignon, the new commissioner in charge of industrial affairs. He owes his title to his grandfather, who received it from the King of the Belgians, after having

been Minister for Foreign Affairs. He himself was Paul-Henri Spaak's principal private secretary, and afterwards became policy director at the Belgian Foreign Office. In 1974 he was made President of the International Energy Agency.

M Davignon does not give the impression of regarding his new post as a convenient sinecure in which to prepare for his entry into active political life in his own country, in the Social Christian Party (SCP), on the right, that is, of the political scene.

The crisis affecting several key sectors of Community industry gives this man, who is reputedly quick to size up a situation, a chance to act. First, in the iron and steel industry. By means of price regulations the Commission has just reinforced the crisis plan which has been in operation, under its control, since January 1. M Davignon, who does not want his way of running things to be constantly open to question, obtained some extent of a free hand for himself from the heads of government in Rome on March 26.

Will he, as his diplomat's reflexes quicken again, be able to show himself sufficiently firm in the negotiations that are in progress with the third country steel exporters, Japan, Spain and South Africa? Some fear that this may be his weakness.

Apart from iron and steel, M Davignon, though he may have no industrial doctrine to put forward, believes that the Community could usefully base its policy on a few commonsense rules and—one of his most cherished ideas—begins by assessing what is the minimum level of productive capacity that Europe needs in each industrial sector.

Philippe Lemaître

Louis de Guiringaud

It is unfair, perhaps, to single out M de Guiringaud, the French Foreign Minister, as culpable for the mix up in French policy towards Zaïre. The failure to consult France's European Community partners was clearly an oversight by the Elysée. But on the principle of ministerial responsibility



It must be the Foreign Minister who is to blame.

The decision to air-lift Moroccan troops to help Zaïre in its difficulties was obviously justified. As the French President pointed out, one African country has requested help from another African country. What could be fairer than that?

In these sensitive and political matters, however, it is foolish to ignore the claims of European solidarity. The President announced that his action was taken in the name of Europe. But the French Government had not consulted its partners at all, merely informed them.

It was left to the unfortunate M de Guiringaud to explain to his colleagues, when they met at the political cooperation meeting in London, that Europe meant not the Community but the wider continent. Really? For how long has France been speaking in the name of these various countries, east and west?

M de Guiringaud is a career diplomat and a man of long experience. But he should beware of the tendency of the Quai d'Orsay to pursue a somewhat idealistic interpretation of Europeanism when it suits it (witness France going it alone in recognizing the new regime in Angola).

All the members of the Community have an agreement to consult each other on foreign policy questions. They greatly augment their influence in the world when they do so.

David Spanier

We can't go on meeting like this

continued from page 1

The rubber stamp meeting thus becomes a ceremonial occasion when there are no decisions to be rubber stamped. At such meetings great attention is paid to the need to improve mutual understanding. Since all the participants already understand that there is nothing much to do apart from going through the motions of being in favour of progress with stability, recovery without inflation and getting through to the next election, it might be thought that there is little positive to do apart from jointly going around the golf course where the Puerto Rico summit—perhaps the most perfect example of the ceremonial meeting without substance—was held.

The difference between the two kinds of meetings listed so far is that the rubber stamp meeting is well prepared (always an indication that the meeting is over before it has started) whereas the ceremonial meeting is not (and thus effectively never gets started).

But sometimes summit meetings, or even ministerial meetings, can come not at the end of a process but near its beginning. The most successful example of this, and one which has lured governments ever since, was the EEC summit meeting in 1969 which first gave the go-ahead to negotiations on Britain's application to join the Community. When these talks ran into difficulties another summit, this time involving just M Pompidou and Mr Edward Heath, reached an "agreement to agree" after which it was just left to the ministerial negotiators to fill in the details.

Thus, summit meetings increasingly produce commitments either to set up a new round of meetings to examine a problem or promise that ministers responsible for the issue under discussion will attend meetings already scheduled in a positive frame of mind. There may even be a commitment to reach an agreement by a specific date.

This last is a particularly useful element in international conference going, since it scores almost as highly as an actual agreement itself, involves none of the boring technical detail all too often associated with economic and trade questions and can subse-

quently provide an occasion for the fourth kind of meeting, the deadlock breaker.

Firm pledges are avoided where possible because they so often have to be broken. Thus, at the summit meeting in Rambouillet on November 15, 1975, the assembled heads of government promised to accelerate the Gatt trade talks. Nothing noticeable then happened until their Puerto Rico meeting when they agreed again to step up the pace; it would be surprising if this week's London session passes off without at least some reference to the urgent need for progress.

An even more extreme example of the ability of leaders to promise action where there is no real prospect of progress has been in relations with developing countries. The North-South dialogue between rich and poor nations opened at ministerial level in Paris on December 16, 1975, with full pledges of support from the West. That Paris meeting took no concrete decision other than to set up working parties which were to report to another ministerial meeting.

Meanwhile, a meeting of Unctad in Nairobi would provide an occasion for some concrete progress. Unctad came and went, mixing rhetoric and acrimony in generous portions but delivering nothing in the way of agreements which actually helped the poorest nations of the world. Instead, they were encouraged to focus their attention on the autumn ministerial session of the IMF and the ministerial meeting of the North-South dialogue. Since at the previous meeting of the North-South dialogue they had been encouraged to focus on Unctad, they can have had few illusions about the likelihood of progress.

But even hardened conference-goers seem to have been shocked by the dedication with which the West shied away from discussing anything which might lead to progress in the study groups preparing the North-South meeting. So intense was the lack of progress that the almost unthinkable occurred, and the ministerial meeting scheduled for the end of the year was cancelled because there was nothing to discuss. If there had been one major issue on which difficulties remained, it might have

been worth trying to iron that out at a ministerial meeting, even hoping to call a special summit to sort it out.

That, after all, is what summits are really good at: deciding between two simple alternatives which can be explained and understood in a couple of hours' discussion by ministers in a room without experts who will fog their minds with detail.

Unfortunately, the economic crisis which has produced 15 million unemployed in the West, with an extra 100,000 losing their jobs each month, does not seem to be that simple.

This makes small summits inappropriate forums for seeking action. Although they are meant to be small and informal, they have an irresistible tendency to grow.

The original scheme for an economic summit involved only five countries—France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Italians succeeded in insisting on an invitation to the Rambouillet meeting, but the Canadians, who also wanted to go, were kept out. By Puerto Rico the Canadians were invited but the EEC Commission just missed the list of guests. This time the Commission will be there but none of the small countries has been asked along.

Attempts by defenders of exclusivity to argue that it does not matter if countries are kept out because no decisions are ever taken at summits have not, on the whole, been treated with the respect they merit.

This tendency to expand applies to subject matter as well. At Rambouillet the most important topic was clearly progress of the world recovery and the bilateral row between France and the United States which was resolved on the sidelines. By Puerto Rico, there was a more cosmic tone to the discussion of economic problems, with a tendency to get away from specifics and philosophize about the nature of inflation.

At the London meeting, economics is not even going to be the only topic. A whole rag-bag of issues is expected to come up. All of them will no doubt receive as much serious study as it is possible to give in five-minute prepared talks. But is that really the way to run the world?

David Blake

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No beggars among the poor

Dr Pérez Guerrero, co-president of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC) and, as such, leader of the 19 developing countries taking part in the North-South dialogue in Paris, is in the best possible position to explain the worries and hopes of these countries on the eve of the London meeting of the industrially developed countries.

In all the posts that he has held, both in Venezuela, where he is Minister of State for International Economic Affairs, and at the United Nations, where he was general secretary of the third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) in 1972, Dr Pérez Guerrero has always championed the cause of the poorer countries, and has fought for a new world economic order.

"The rich countries must understand that the developing countries are not beggars," he said. "They have an essential contribution to make to the establishment of a new economic order capable of functioning efficiently and bringing to an end the economic troubles from which every country is suffering. They are ready to make this contribution."

How is it possible to expect positive results from the ministerial meeting fixed for May 30 next when the contact groups set up by these committees will only have had about a fortnight at the beginning of the month to make the necessary preparations?

I think that positive results could be achieved at the ministerial meeting of the North-South dialogue, whereas this would not have been possible last December. Though we postponed the conference until the spring it was not only because there had been insufficient preparation; it was mainly because the political will was lacking and because, on account of the elections, the United States Government had suggested an adjournment until a more suitable time. No one can be sure of what will happen in this new, final, decisive stage.

If I am cautiously optimistic it is for the following reasons, which are recognized by many of those who are taking part in the dialogue, or who follow its development closely. First, because the problems are known, as are most of the possible solutions.

Next, it is clear that the developing countries have realized that the situation in which they find themselves, because of the old system of international economic relations, is unjust and intolerable, and that only their militant solidarity can open the way to the fundamental change that is necessary in order to arrive at what we call the new international economic order.

But perhaps the most decisive reason is that the world is faced with problems that are insoluble within the framework of the present system of international economic relations, which is in the process of disintegration. It is impossible to bring order into the system. A new order is necessary, which cannot be established without the participation of the Third World countries, without taking full account of their interests. Are you hoping for a change in the positions of the developed countries?

meeting in London on May 7 sufficient to enable a way out to be found from the stalemate of the North-South dialogue and the Unctad negotiations at Geneva?

Even after the regrettable impasse at the Unctad conference on the common fund, it can still be hoped that the market economy, industrially developed countries are more receptive to the positions taken by the Third World. A positive change has been apparent on the part of certain countries which were hitherto reserved in their attitude.

Do you think that, to be more precise, an extension of the export revenue stabilization procedures, such as the Stabex measures of the Lomé convention, would satisfy the developing countries, and, if so, to what extent?

The Lomé convention was a step forward, and it is too soon to come to any conclusions. But you will not find wool growing on trees. The aim of the Lomé convention is to stabilize export revenue: our aim is to protect the purchasing power of the unit value of our exports.

Do you think that the London conference can resolve the problem of the indebtedness of the developing countries?

Where indebtedness is concerned, everybody takes the view that solutions are urgently needed. It affects us all, creditors and debtors alike. The developing countries are in different categories where this is concerned, and any action taken must take into account. However, for the majority of them the burden of servicing the debt has increased so much that their economies are in serious trouble and their development plans are held back. Whatever the results of this ministerial meeting of the CIEC, do you not think that the North-South dialogue ought at all costs to continue?

The North-South dialogue started before the Paris conference, and will go on after the conference has ended.

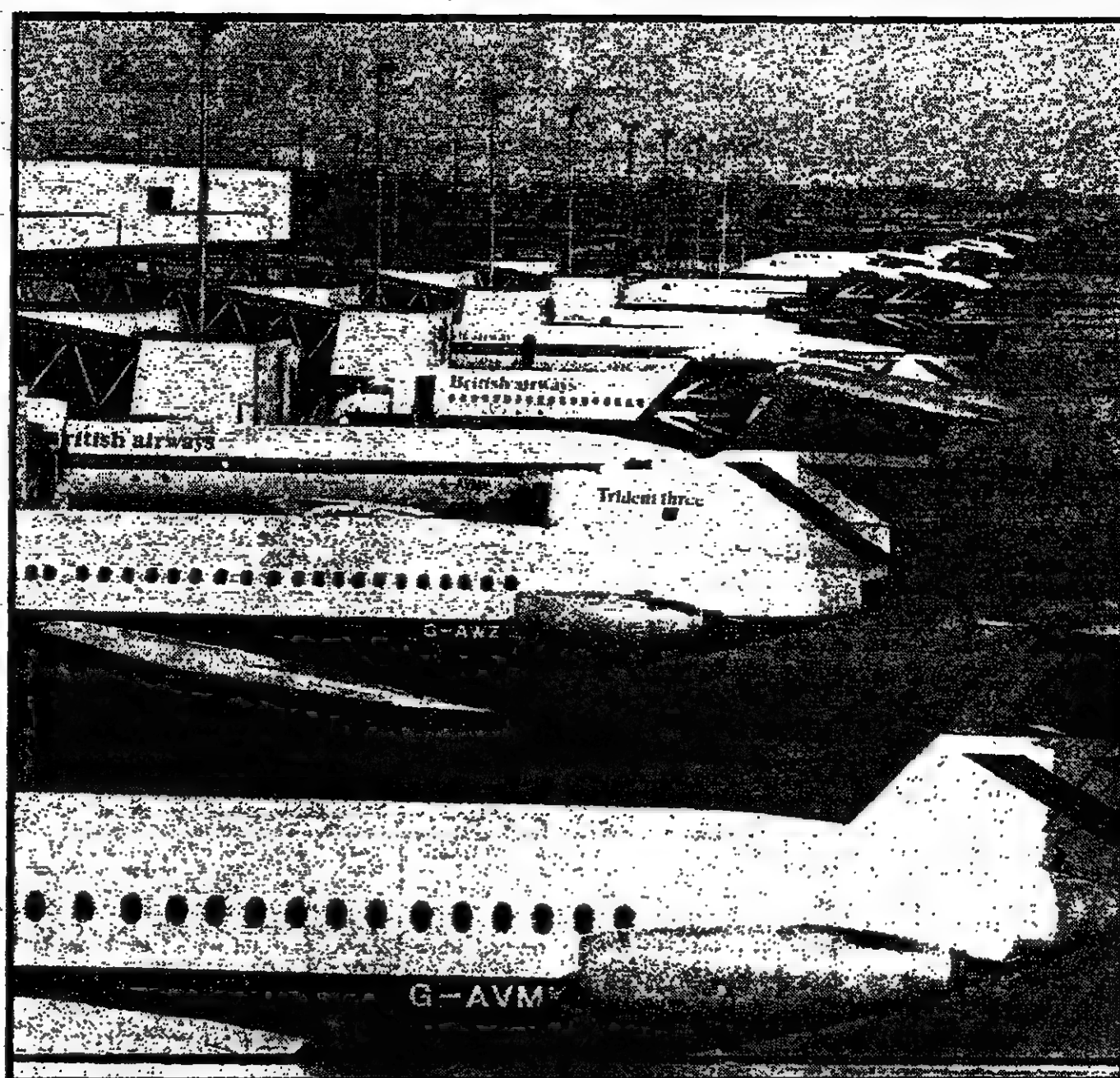
Whatever the outcome, a report is to be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations as quickly as possible, so that the entire international community can give it its attention, and come to a decision.

Contact between countries will continue, but this should be within the agencies and institutions of the United Nations. Although I am only speaking personally, without committing anyone, I should not wish to anticipate events where a subject as delicate as that of energy is concerned.

As far as commodities are concerned, it is clear that Unctad must continue with its work, like the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in industrial development, like the International Monetary Fund in monetary matters, and so on, even though the Paris conference concerns the domains of these institutions.

The work will certainly not end there, but can there be any doubt that, if we succeed at Paris, and then at New York, the present malaise and the underlying uncertainty to which we are a prey will start to disappear, leaving the way open for a new era of fruitful international cooperation?

Jean Schwobbel



Ways legal and illegal of saving money on air fares

Flying is an expensive way to travel. A passenger on an intercontinental flight can pay several hundred pounds for an ordinary ticket on a scheduled flight. It is not surprising therefore that travellers are looking for ways to save on fares—and there are quite a few ways, legal and not so legal.

One legal way is to know thoroughly the structure of international air fares. This is complicated and changes in different zones, which makes it difficult to give general advice.

Besides ordinary fares, there are charter fares for almost all routes. These are meant for people going on holiday but are useful for many business trips.

There are fares which restrict the traveller in some way, the best-known in recent years being the so-called Apex fares on flights between Europe and North America. These cost little more than a third of the price of an ordinary economy-class fare, but require the passenger to book two months before departure and spend at least two weeks where he is going. This is obviously not suitable for a businessman's needs. Even so, he would be wise to ask a travel agent to advise him on possible reductions.

Besides the Apex fares, there are many other fares which are mainly aimed at holiday travellers. The foremost of these are the IT-fares which, unlike Apex rates, also apply in Europe and on flights to Africa and Asia. These also require a minimum stay in the country of destination, but are not as strict as Apex.

Their main feature is that they may be sold only as part of a package. The usual reduction on the ordinary fare is about 30 per cent. Here too a good travel agent can help with the maze of fares.

For destinations near holiday centres like the Mediterranean, South-

east Asia and the Caribbean, and also the United States, Canada and South America, it is a good idea to look at the brochures of firms specializing in charters. Many airports in these areas are also served by charter flights which offer the same standards of service and equipment as the main airlines, but can offer much lower prices because they carry many more passengers on each flight and usually in closer-packed seating. With the exception of Canada and the United States, charter flights always involve package accommodation.

This covers all the major legal reductions, apart from special conces-

sionary rates. There have been reports for some time of other cheap flights whose legality is to some extent disputed. They are either flights with airlines which are openly undercutting internationally agreed prices or so-called "soft currency" tickets.

Such tickets are obviously only of interest to passengers living in countries with hard currencies, such as West Germany and Switzerland, and are possible because of the multi-lateral nature of airline tickets. Prices for international flights are laid down at conferences of the airline companies in the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and depend on ratification by national governments for their force. This gives air fares the same legal force as rail fares.

Recently, however, there has been a steady stream of offers undercutting these rates. For flights from West Germany these are especially apparent on flights to east Asia and South America. These depend on an airline being prepared to fly passengers at prices below the agreed rates and sell tickets to travel agents. Reductions can be as much as 50 per cent. Experts estimate that up to half the passengers on some routes are travelling on these cheap tickets.

There can be no doubt that the sale of these air tickets is illegal. Under present law each instance is subject to a fine of about £1,250. There is talk about drastic increases to curb increasing abuse. Passengers who are caught normally have to pay the difference between the price of their ticket and the legal fare.

The chance of being caught with these tickets has increased because of a drive at airports to catch people with "soft currency" tickets. According to a report in the German periodical *Fremdenverkehrswirtschaft* 300 people were caught in March.

"Soft currency" tickets are tickets which are bought for long trips, usually in London or Milan, to take advantage of the fall in the currencies. This is possible because IATA tariffs are not shown in national currencies but in dollars and pounds. Because of the considerable fall in these currencies against the mark and Swiss franc, a flight from Europe to Tokyo can be about £175 cheaper for someone who has his ticket bought in London and does not use the portion covering London to Frankfurt. This is despite a complicated system of discounts and supplementary charges.

The legality of these tickets is a matter of controversy. The airlines and the German Transport Ministry take the line that the sale and use of such tickets is illegal, but there have been some legal opinions—if not perhaps from leading authorities—which question this view. Only a test case can settle the matter.

Anyone using this type of ticket is liable to have his departure considerably delayed if he is caught.

Gerd Brüggemann

Deficits keep railways on social service lines

Without government support, the German railway system in 1976 would have lost £1,900m on railway operations. The corresponding 1975 figures for France and Britain were £560m and £380m. The Italian railway system is also in deficit but recent figures are not available. Government aid is estimated to be £570m.

These deficits reflect the belief that railways are a social service. British Rail sees a similarity between its London services and Covent Garden opera or Concorde.

The magnitude of railways encourages such romantic comparisons. Table 1 shows that France has the lowest railway system; at 35,000 km it could almost stretch round the earth. Since French trains do not use their lines as intensively as do those of other countries, the Germans cover the greatest total distance.

Perhaps the best way of comparing the size of railway systems is in terms of "load kilometres". This takes account of both distance travelled and loads carried by counting one passenger as equivalent to a tonne of freight. On this measure the French and German railways are the largest. The main reason for this is that each carries more than three times as much freight as do the British and Italian systems.

Besides running its trains over the greatest distance, DB also employs the most labour with about 400,000 employees; the other three systems have between 200,000 and 300,000. All four railways are attempting to shed labour and improve productivity.

So far SNCF has been best at this and British Rail worst. Part of the reason is that SNCF is expanding. Between 1960 and 1976 passenger traffic rose by 63 per cent and freight by 22 per cent while British Rail's figures fell by 19 per cent and 35 per cent.

Furthermore, while SNCF is increasing its commuter services into Paris, British Rail expected commuter traffic to fall as fares rise relative to other prices. Italy increased its passenger traffic by 42 per cent but freight remained static, while Germany achieved little growth on either measure.

Since staff are required to operate

trains whether or not they are full, loading has an important bearing on productivity. British Rail's poor performance is at least partly because its trains carry relatively few passengers and relatively little freight. Italian trains are light on freight but not on passengers, while Germany shows the opposite pattern. SNCF does well on both counts.

Table 2 shows figures for passenger travel. DB carries the most passengers a year and FS in Italy the least. The Italians and French, however, use their trains to travel greater distances

than do the Germans or British so that in terms of passenger kilometres, SNCF is the largest service and British Rail the smallest.

Freight statistics in Table 3 show a similar pattern to those for passengers. DB carries the most freight and Italy the least. Because of differences in the average length of haul SNCF comes out as the largest freight carrier in terms of tonne kilometres while the British and Italian systems are low on this measure.

James Rothman

Table 1 Railway statistics—1974

	Total length of lines (1) 1000 km	Total distance travelled by trains (2) million km	Load kilometres (3) million tonne km	Rail staff (4) thousands
SNCF—France	36	492	124	270
DB—Germany	29	631	108	393
FS—Italy	16	288	56	213
BR—Britain	18	45(1)	53	229(4)

(1) Passenger km and tonne km (average revenue per passenger km is about the same as that per tonne km)
(2) Including workshop
(3) Including journeys over London Transport lines
(4) From annual report 195,000 railway staff and 34,000 workshop staff

Table 2 Passenger statistics—1974

	Number of passengers millions	Average journey length km	Number of passenger kilometres (1) million	Passengers per train (2) million	Average fare per km (3) pence
SNCF—France	629	75	47	180	1.2
DB—Germany	1052	38	40	96	2.3
FS—Italy	387	96	36	178	0.6
BR—Britain	733	42	31	104	1.1

(1) ie, passenger km per passenger train km
(2) ie, passenger revenue per passenger km

Table 3 Freight statistics—1974

	Freight carried million tonnes	Average haul km	Number of tonne kms (1) million	Average load per train (2) tonnes
SNCF—France	264	289	76	338
DB—Germany	382	184	68	328
FS—Italy	53	344	18	248
BR—Britain	178	122	22	185

(1) ie, number of tonne km per non-passenger train km

Source of tables: International Railway Statistics published by UIC Union Internationale des Chemins des Fers

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President's progress

continued from page 1

countries themselves, but by making the system work ourselves. The meeting of the heads of state shows clearly how interdependent the economies are, and that this interdependence is rapidly growing. How much sovereignty is the United States willing to give up in the decision-making process?

None.
Not to give up sovereignty. I think though, within the bounds of sovereignty to be maintained by all the nations, that cooperation is very important.

I want to make the right decisions, those that are best for the American people. I do not think there is any doubt that they are best served when we do cooperate with our allies, when we have open and free trade, when we have a proper concern about the less-developed nations, when we do have military security, when we have international lending institutions like the World Bank that can function effectively, when we have a proper and multilateral approach to solving the chronic and rapidly deteriorating energy circumstances.

All those things that are multilateral in nature and require cooperation and unselfishness can enhance the legitimate sovereignty of nations and the protection by leaders of that sovereignty.

So with the exception of your use of the word sovereignty, I think that we need to be sure that our actions are unselfish and based on proper consultation and a sharing of both opportunity and the resolution of problems. American economic growth has accelerated and you have recommended a sharply reduced fiscal stimulus for 1977.

Has the focus of the summit altered? Will you still press for higher international deficits and lower external surpluses by Germany and Japan?

We have left intact an economic stimulus package for 1977-78, the 18-month period, of a little more than \$20,000m which we consider to be adequate.

It is still a substantial amount of stimulus effort, and I would hope that the affluent and economically strong countries might provide some stimulus for the rest of the free world economy.

There is an element of trade which is of concern. The Opec nations have a positive trade balance of about \$40,000m. All their trading partners have to have a deficit of about \$40,000m. To the extent that the strong nations, like ours, Japan and Germany, can absorb part of that deficit, it takes that requirement away from the much weaker nations who have to share it with us.

So to that extent I am willing for this country to experience some controllable international trade deficits for a while. And we have cut our own national budget deficit from about \$65,000m to \$47,000m or \$48,000m this year. Next year it is going to go up.

I think that it is a matter of each nation deciding on its own what is best for its citizens, but at the same time recognizing that when we are selfish and try to have large trade surpluses, and a tight restraint on the international economy, then we make the weaker nations suffer too much.

Are you carrying major proposals to London, and of what kind?

I think those specific agenda items would best be reserved until we get

there. You are perfectly at liberty to talk to the people in the offices of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. But as far as my own proposals, I think I would rather wait until later to talk about that.

Energy always seems to be the biggest source of discontent and discord between us. Look at the results of the Middle East war, and the energy crisis that followed.

There is some concern over your ban on plutonium and what you intend to do in terms of international policy. How can we stay united and be so disunited, assuming, if I am correct that Germany and France go ahead with their nuclear deals?

I think you would have to go back to save time, and read the minutes of my press conference [April 7] when I described our own reprocessing policy. I made it clear that I was not trying to tell Germany and France, Britain or Japan, what to do within their own countries. We have built and unsuccessfully attempted to operate two reprocessing plants.

We are blessed with moderate quantities of uranium ore and large quantities of coal and reasonable quantities of natural gas and oil. I do not believe that within the next 20 years we will need to move to commercial use of the breeder reactor, which is the initiation of the plutonium society. I cannot speak for other countries.

I am very much aware that the waste products from our own light-water reactors, using enriched uranium, are being held intact. They are not being destroyed or wasted. If we shall need them in the future, they will be there.

The third point is that I am deeply concerned if nations which do not have the capability of building nuclear explosives should get it. We are going to do what we can in the trade of nuclear fuels and nuclear power plants to reduce the number of nations which have the ability to build nuclear explosives.

The process has to start somewhere, and in our nation's history, it happens to have started with me. It was campaign commitment of mine shared, by the way, with my opponent, President Ford, and I have no reticence about imposing it.

This is a matter of contention. We would prefer it if reprocessing plants were not sold to other nations, particularly those which have not signed the non-proliferation treaty. But some of the trades or contracts had already been initiated or consummated.

We have let our views be known, but we recognize the autonomy of nations to deal as they see fit. I think that the present competition and some degree of disharmony among nations on energy might well be exacerbated unless we all try to conserve energy as much as possible. I am not criticizing other nations when I say that I am glad that we have finally moved, after being extremely wasteful for so long, towards a new policy that will be built around conservation of all kinds of energy supplies.

I would guess that our own action, as a powerful, influential nation might induce other countries to join with us in a mutual commitment to make an inventory of energy supplies, assure a fairer distribution and reduce waste.

You have spoken about foreign trade, about growing protectionist pressure in the United States. Do you think you can resist the demands of the unions and some industries? What is your

philosophy on international trade and what are your objectives?

Yes, I cannot guarantee it, but I believe and I hope that I can resist pressure of this kind. Among all the nations who will be participating in the economic summit, I would guess that our unemployment rate is the highest. It is running in excess of 7 per cent, and with high unemployment comes extraordinary pressure to get one's own workers reemployed.

My position on trade restraint was spelled out clearly in the long campaign that I conducted and it is based on the hope, that whenever American jobs are excessively in danger, we can best resolve this question by bilateral and voluntary agreements on the importation of overly competitive goods.

I think this is the case regarding shoes from Taiwan and South Korea. I think it will be the case with colour television sets from Japan and I hope that this would be an adequate pattern.

Congress has authority under the law to override my decisions if they are not considered to be adequate, but I believe that I can prevail.

The industrialized world must find answers to the demands of the developing nations or the North-South conflict will become more serious. What is your position on commodity arrangements, common funds and the debt situation? Let me put it this way: what can we offer them?

Again, I think that question can best be answered at a later time. I have my own ideas about it, but they will be much more firmly developed when I get to the London conference. As we approach the CIEC [Conference on International Economic Cooperation] meeting which will follow it, I would hope that the advanced industrial nations could provide a more uniform, comprehensive and compatible approach to that serious question.

How do you look at the future role of the international organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?

I think they should be broadened and strengthened. This is important. In the multinational trade agreements, GATT, OECD, the International Energy Agency, the World Bank, and regional banks—that is a proper place for continuing multilateral interrelationships and I think in many instances it is better to approach the problems of the nations of the southern hemisphere through those mechanisms than through bilateral actions.

There are a few exceptions, but I will do all I can to strengthen those that are discussed.

Let us move from North-South to East-West. A few people might have been concerned about the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. Are we in for another cold war?

No, I think not. We proposed to the Soviet Union two options: one was a fairly quick ratification of the basic agreement that had been derived from the Vladivostok conference. The other is our preference—a much more drastic and deep reduction in the level of nuclear armaments with a prohibition against the evolution of new weapons systems and a much more open capability of confirming that the agreements are being honoured.

The worst that can happen, in my opinion, is a standoff at the present pace of development which would be very unfortunate. I don't believe that either the Soviet Union or we want to continue this armaments race,

which is costly and also increasingly dangerous.

The second level of achievement would be a ratification of the basic Vladivostok terms and I would never give up both the hope and the effort to move toward ultimate elimination of atomic weapons altogether.

Over a long period of time that should be our goal. I would hope that when I go out of office we will have reduced the level of nuclear armaments substantially throughout the world.

So you are still optimistic even in the short term?

I am, yes.

On human rights, are you satisfied with progress? We read in the press recently that three leaders of the Russian trade unions could not get a visa. How can this be reconciled with your declared intention of making it easier to enter this country?

Compared with what we have done in the past, we have lowered the barriers. This was an exception and I was not involved in the decision, but I certainly support it.

There are no prohibitions now against American citizens travelling anywhere in the world initiated by us. For the first time, Americans can go to North Korea, to Vietnam, to Cambodia, to Cuba. They could not a couple of months ago. We have removed the constraints in our own nation on travel as well as from aliens.

There will be a need to change the basic American law that was written during the cold war. I would be in favour of removing all restrictions on

travel except those that have to be—that that would be minimal.

As far as the human rights effort is concerned, this is a position that is compatible with the character of the American people. It is one that is almost overwhelmingly supported by the American people. It is one that will be permanent. And it is one that has to be pursued in a sensitive way.

We cannot change the structure of governments in foreign countries. We cannot demand complete compatibility in a system of government or even basic philosophies with our own, but we reserve the right to speak out freely and aggressively when we are concerned.

So I think that although there has been some temporary adverse reaction to our position on human rights, perhaps in the Soviet Union, in Brazil, and maybe a few other countries, I do not intend to back down on it.

We are struck by the fact that you are willing to coordinate your policies with Britain in seeking to avert a race war in southern Africa, and yet in the case where there has been an invasion apparently across the frontier into Zaire from neighbouring Angola you wish to stay out of any involvement—and how shall I say it—leave it to the French? Is that a fair characterization, and can you tell us what your policy is?

We have an aversion to military involvement in foreign countries. We are suffering or benefiting from the experience that we had in Vietnam. It would not be possible for the

American people to support an invasion force with the United States into the Shaba region of Zaire.

We have continued to send Zaire aid and supplies, C130s, ammunition, fuel, medical supplies, parachutes and so forth.

We obviously did not interfere in the decisions made by the Egyptians, Moroccans, the French Government to give Zaire more direct aid. We certainly do not disapprove it.

I think when the European countries or the African nations, because of close political and historical ties with Mobutu and his Government, are inclined to be more active in their help for him, we, you know, would certainly approve of that, of their prerogative.

So we would like to see the boundaries of the African nations honoured. We are friendly with Mobutu and the Government of Zaire. We do not intend to get militarily involved, unless our own security is directly threatened, in the affairs of other countries. We honour and respect and appreciate the action that the French and the Moroccan and Egyptian nations have taken. Thank you.

I have enjoyed it. We enjoyed it. I am sure we could go on.

I would not want to bore you. (Laughter.)

Fred Emery
Henri Piere
Horst-Alexander Siebert
Vittorio Zucconi

The 1977 flat racing season has begun under economic difficulties. Rising costs of training and owning horses are not being matched by increases in prize money and there is growing concern over illegal doping

Unity needed to resolve troubles of the turf

A few weeks ago, at a conference in Rome, the racing authorities of 16 countries, including France, West Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, reached agreement on action to be taken against the doping of horses. It was a significant event, one of the few examples of general international agreement in a sport which has traditionally been administered on inward-looking, jealously guarded national lines.

Today, more and more horses and jockeys are crossing national frontiers to participate in races, especially in Europe, and greater inter-European cooperation is becoming increasingly important to the smooth flow of that traffic.

Valid comparisons between the four countries are difficult, partly because racing in Britain and France is conducted on a much larger scale than in Italy and Germany, and partly because of differences in public taste on the kind of horse-racing it wants. In Britain, for example, racing over jumps (steeplechasing and hurdling) plays a large part, but there is little

trotting. By contrast, in Italy, trotting is far more popular than thoroughbred racing. The form of betting on racing differs greatly, too.

Britain and France are well matched. They have approximately the same number of horses in training (about 12,000, with France slightly more and Britain slightly fewer). They hold about the same number of races annually (about 6,000) and generate similar amounts of betting from the public (more than £1,500m last year).

At present both are going through a difficult period. In Britain, inflation has made sure that the costs of owning, breeding and training horses have increased greatly in the past few years. The prize money available has not kept pace with that rise, with the result that it has become more difficult to participate in racing unless rich or lucky enough to own one or two particularly good horses. In addition, Britain's weak economic position, and the fall in the value of sterling, has resulted in much of its best bloodstock being bought by foreign buyers. The fear is that Britain is in danger of losing its preeminent position as a thoroughbred breeding nation.

Much of the blame is put on the Government. Not only did it impose VAT of 8 per cent on the live value of a racehorse when bought (in most other countries a race horse is either zero rated or the VAT is calculated on the carcass value), but it has consistently refused to put any of the money it gets out of racing in duty back into the sport. Of the more than £1,500m staked in bets last year, the Government took £110m in duty. Only about £10m was ploughed back into the sport, and that was not government money but came mainly from a levy on bookmakers.

A recent comparison drawn up by the racing industry in Britain, and submitted to a royal commission on gambling now looking into the subject, showed that as a percentage of total betting turnover, less than 1 per cent went back into racing in Britain. In France the figure was nearly 5 per cent, in Germany 15 per cent and in Italy more than 10 per cent.

France's problem is different. Until recently its racing industry gained considerably from generous infusion of money, with the result that the total prize money available there in 1974 (£21.5m) was more than three times the figure for Britain. With about the same number of races, that meant that the average prize money per race was three times as much as in Britain (more than £3,600 compared with less than £1,300).

Even taking into account the substantially higher costs and overheads in France, racing there was in a much healthier state than in its neighbour across the Channel.

Since then, however, the French Government, also facing financial difficulties, has increased its rake-off from betting. In addition, in January 1976 the minimum stake on France's most popular form of betting, the Tiercé, was raised from three francs to five francs. An immediate drop in betting revenue followed. The result is that the amount ploughed back into French racing last year showed a dramatic drop, to about £60m, from £75m the year before. Although these figures include some money given to trotting the proportions are valid for thoroughbred racing.

Prize money has had to be reduced

in a number of big races, sometimes drastically (in one case from £94,000 to £59,000) and there have even been plans to cut the number of races. By contrast, prize money in Britain has shown a healthy increase from year to year and in 1976 stood at £10m, a rise of nearly £3m in two years. The gap between the two main European racing nations is narrowing.

Racing in Italy and West Germany is on a lesser scale, and also differs from the other two in that trotting is more popular than thoroughbred racing. In Italy, for instance, there are 17 official trotting tracks which last year held some 7,000 races, to 12 "gallop" courses, which held about 4,000 races. The total prize money for both is 20,000m lire, with thoroughbred racing taking well under half of it. Some 300,000m lire were staked in bets in 1976.

The Federal Republic shows the same predilection towards trotting. Last year there were 713 meetings, with nearly 8,000 races. Prize money amounted to DM38m, and the betting turnover was DM276m. By contrast conventional racing had only 250 meetings, with 2,000 races, prizes amounting to DM20m and stakes invested of DM125m. Of the 163 per cent of betting turnover taken by the state in duty, all but a tiny percentage is reapplied to racing.

Throughout Europe, racing has moved out of the position where it can be regarded merely as a sport in which only the rich could indulge. It is now an industry generating large sums of money and substantial employment. In the United Kingdom, for instance, more than 20,000 are directly employed in racing and nearly 80,000 in the betting industry which feeds off it. Yet, in most countries, it is still run, on the whole, by a small, often self-perpetuating close-knit group, which excludes the participation of outsiders. The movement towards democratization is the next big challenge to be faced by European racing.

Marcel Bertins

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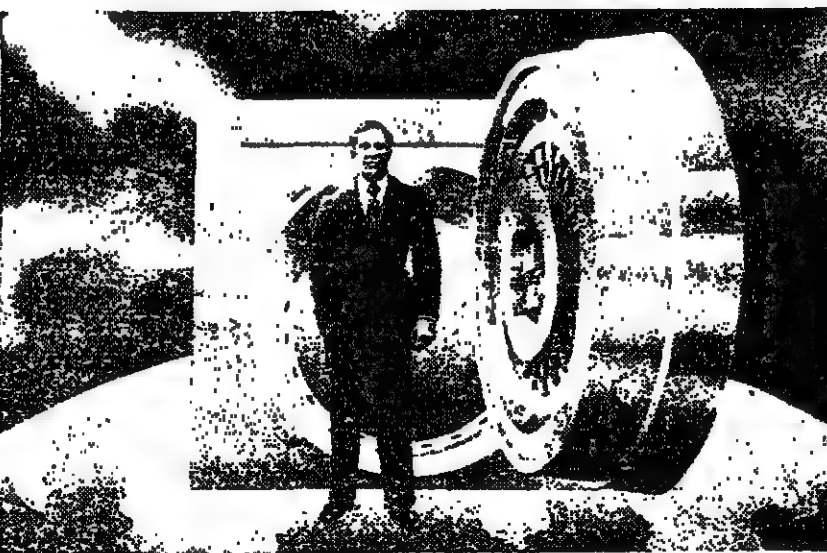
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Finance: newcomer with mighty strength and assets

Although only three years old this year, he is already beginning to feel his giant strength. I am referring to the London and Continental Bankers, a giant in the world capital market, which has still to learn how to use its strength to best effect. LCB, as it is known in financial circles in London, is a group of prime names, supported by the national banks of the European Community. The last balance-sheet of this mighty newcomer showed assets of nearly DM 400,000m.

Lord Shawcross, the LCB chairman, recites, not without pride, the names of the partners: Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank, which has more than 19,500 branches and holds more than half the LCB shares; Andelsbanken A.S. Danebank, Denmark; Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Italy; Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel, Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole, both French; Centrale Raibank, Holland; CERA-Centrale Reiffeisenkas, Belgium; Foerreningsbankernas Bank, Sweden; Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Austria; Osuuspankkien Keskuspankki, Finland; and—like an outsider in the noble club of members—S. G. Warburg & Co., London, with only 4.55 per cent of the shares, but bringing with it the financial centre of London and, particularly, international knowledge.

The future course of one of the main flows of capital from this European holding company is indicated by the participation of LCB in the German company, Mifinanz, which has been in existence for 15 years and built up considerable assets of nearly DM 2,000m.

This company was one of the first European leasing companies which, after the Second World War, financed instalment buying over a long period on the American pattern, and frequently avoiding national credit legislation.

But Mifinanz in West Germany went a different way to all the other leasing companies: it did not give any option on the object being leased. In contrast to hire-purchase (leasing) the hired goods (turnover or rented heavy goods vehicle fleet remained the property of Mifinanz. The company hiring offset the hire charges before tax as "other expenditure".

The advantages of this system are obvious: even firms with small capital cover, or whose cover has been eroded by recession and inflation, can now become the economic—but not legal—owners of plant, and at fixed interest, which allows them to calculate their costs for years in advance precisely. The element of risk attached to interest rates, which is otherwise present in purchasing plant on borrowed money, is transferred to the leasing company, which has to secure itself against excessive interest charges in its refinancing.

A further advantage of production with other people's plant is based in technical competition. If after five years a new machine comes on the market, the renter can immediately change to this machine, which would be possible only at great expense with wholly-owned machinery. The renter accordingly has a technological advantage. Naturally the thought comes to mind that, in the final analysis, profits do not come from the purchased machinery, but from the goods produced with it. Nevertheless, LCB describes the demand for such loaned plant as immense, especially if the young giant can provide it at fixed interest.

LCB has had the national European markets investigated, and has established that there are no laws or tax regulations which would prevent operation of leasing on the German pattern. The size of the object that could be involved in leasing is similarly unlimited.

Hans Baumann



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PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE

President Carter has always said that he has a deep commitment to Europe, and he will doubtless say so again when he comes to Britain this week. In his interview with *Europe*, published today, he is firm and clear about his intentions. He speaks of his "deep concern about good relations with Europe," his increasing emphasis on military capabilities within Nato, and his desire to see the Community strengthened and enlarged. The people of America, he says, "have a natural sense that our historical ties and our future are intimately linked with the European countries."

These are welcome words and they should be particularly welcome in Britain, where relations with President Carter have got off to a good start. But many other American Administrations have had good intentions towards Europe and many have stumbled over the practical complexities of putting them into effect. Nobody could have been more anxious for a close relationship than Dr Kissinger but his forceful approach was ill-attended to the over-sensitive complexities of European politics. President Carter sets a better tone in his interview. He says he has a lot to learn, that he has "a legitimate reticence about trying to interfere," and that he wants the Community enlarged only when the nations involved consider it appropriate. He reiterates his more relaxed attitude towards west European communists, saying that while he hopes that no totalitarian elements will become either influential or dominant in Nato countries he believes each country has to make its own decisions in the electoral process.

and that the best way to prevent the enhancement of communist strength is to show that democratically controlled governments can function effectively.

All this is very sound, tactful and reasonable. Will it produce the desired results? Just as there is a certain rosinness about his remarks on his relations with Congress, which are not nearly as good as he says, there is little more than a hint of awareness that his relations with Europe could be little smoother than those of his predecessors if he is not careful. His manner of conducting policy can be less sensitive and conciliatory than his words. He has got off to a particularly bad start with West Germany, and in his interview he offers no special word of encouragement to this his most powerful ally in Europe.

The trouble has been over reinfatuation, which he himself has now cut back, over the common tank project, where American tests have allegedly been unfair, over the sale of a complete nuclear fuel cycle to Brazil, where his intentions have been broadly justified but their implementation insensitive, and to some extent over the manner in which he has published his concerns for human rights, which has made some German fear a hardening of the east-west relations in Europe. None of these wounds in the relationship need be fatal, and some were unavoidable, but they need treatment if they are not to fester. West Germany particularly needs reassurance from Washington when its confidence in itself and

in Europe is at a low ebb, which it now is.

President Carter's relations with France could also be rough, though for somewhat different reasons.

The effect of his new approach to west European communists will take time to emerge. The communists themselves need not feel particularly encouraged. On the one hand the United States still clearly opposes their ambitions, so they achieve no new respectability. On the other hand anti-communist parties, particularly in Italy, could feel somewhat let down, though what they ought to face is the challenge to show that democracy can work on behalf of democratic parties.

President Carter's straightforward good intentions and ostensible sensitivity will therefore be under test when he comes face to face with his fractious and divided allies. He has, however, opportunities for progress which have not been available to all his predecessors. As he points out himself, all the Nato countries have now become democracies, and the Community is moving towards the hopeful if difficult task of taking on new members. Congress is no longer pressing for military withdrawals from Europe, and in spite of Britain's defence cuts Europe in general is becoming more aware of the need to shore up the military balance. There is also steadily growing awareness of the wider economic and political problems which face Europe and the western alliance. If solutions are still elusive at least the problems are an aid to intelligent concentration and a spur to cooperation.

Amending the law by decree

From Mr Derek I. Hammond

Sir, So now lawyers and laymen alike are faced with the daunting and dangerous prospect of the correction, by Ministerial Order, of "mistakes" in Acts of Parliament. Because, even now (with the modern habit of making Acts of Parliament operative piecemeal by Ministerial Order) it requires some tenacity of purpose (or instant accessibility to a daily updated list of statutory instruments) to ascertain precisely which portions of any particular Act are in force on any particular date: as anyone who has been concerned (for example) with the Employment Protection Act recently will know.

How much more daunting, therefore, when (having ascertained whether or not the particular section with which one is concerned is in force) one must then consider (a) whether it contains any inherent but unnoticed "mistakes", and (b) whether it is ultimately likely (in a "mistake" has already been noticed and its "correction" is under consideration) that such "correction" will receive the ministerial fiat.

Dangerous, because the proposed system, by its very convenience to politicians, is clearly open to political abuse. The borderline between a pure clerical error and an error of judgment cannot permanently be guaranteed to remain unblurred.

The whole Bill itself is, of course, a mistake, and ought to be corrected by its total deletion. Yours faithfully, DEREK I. HAMMOND, 21 St Mark's Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, May 2.

Human rights convention

From Dr J. W. Bruegel

Sir, With much respect for a legal expert of the eminence of Lord Gardiner (April 28) it must be said that the Commission of Enquiry for alleged violation of human rights reaching the Council of Europe and directed against Great Britain cannot be explained by the fact that this country has so far failed to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into the UN Convention of Civil and Political Rights into municipal law, desirable as such a step might be.

By ratifying the European Convention in 1951 the United Kingdom committed itself to safeguard certain clearly defined rights. In 1965 the United Kingdom accepted the right of individual petition. Since then this country could be said at the European Commission of Human Rights for violations of rights safeguarded in the Convention irrespective of the fact that the Convention was embodied in domestic law or not. Many complaints are not in conformity with the rules (which demand inter alia exhaustion of domestic remedies) or are not dealt with by the Commission for other reasons (eg. "manifestly ill-founded").

Consequently, not the number of petitions accusing a certain country is a proper yardstick for judging the degree of observance of human rights in that country but the number of petitions declared inadmissible and justified. Here the record of this country, while naturally not satisfying, is not worse than the record of other member countries of the Council of Europe. Yours faithfully, J. W. BRUEGEL, 21 Connaught Drive, NW11, April 28.

'The Age of Uncertainty'

From Sir Keith Joseph, MP for Leeds, NE (Conservative)

Sir, I am pleased to learn that Professor Galbraith's value of liberty (April 25) is I had never suspected from his advocacy of centralized economic control. The view that freedom is not crucial and that in any case there is no difference between freedom in the West and freedom in the East is a view which he gave to the German newspaper, *Die Zeit*, which I quoted in my letter of April 1. I took care not to pick on an isolated and unrepresentative remark.

Indeed, asked by his interviewer how he could possibly hold such opinions when he was in sight of the Berlin Wall, Galbraith is reported to have replied: "I think the West is going to win, at least it has maintained the peace."

Professor Galbraith rightly points out that the interview took place nine years ago. But the passage of time doesn't by itself render such comments, if made, insignificant. My reason for drawing attention to Professor Galbraith's opinions as reported in this interview was to help explain why, in my view, the BBC erred seriously in their choice of intellectual mentor for *The Age of Uncertainty* television series. Recent episodes of the programme have confirmed my view. Galbraith makes no attempt to be impartial or fairly to express differing interpretations of economic history; he remains what he has always been, a polemicist for ideological and highly personal views—views which, if accepted by government, I believe, would lead to impoverishment and despotism. Yours faithfully, KEITH JOSEPH, House of Commons, May 2.

'Doom-laden doggerel'

From Mr Charles Monteith

Sir, Irish politics continue to provoke a sense of déjà vu, or déjà vu. The "typical piece of doom-laden doggerel" from a recent Action Council leaflet, quoted by Christopher Walker (April 29) is by Kipling. It was first published in the *Morning Post* in 1912. Yours faithfully, CHARLES MONTEITH, The Gerrick Club, 17, The Garlick Street, WC2, April 29.

Talks to limit nuclear arms

From Mr Richard Burt

Sir, In his article of April 27 concerning any article on the strategic arms talks which appeared in *The Times* on April 19 Mr N. Khorunzhy of the Novosti Press Agency seems to suggest that an agreement between the super-powers that left American nuclear-capable aircraft deployed in and around Europe out of a new arms accord would be unacceptable.

There are three points that should be raised in regard to this argument: The first is that Mr Khorunzhy appears to be in disagreement with his own government's position on forward-based American aircraft. The guidelines for a new strategic arms agreement agreed to by party leader Brezhnev and President Ford in November, 1974, it was explicitly stated that American forward-based aircraft would not be included under the ceilings established by a new 10-year accord. If the Soviet government were to change their position on this issue at this stage of the negotiations, the likelihood that the two sides could agree on the terms of a new accord before the 1977 interim agreement on offensive weapons expires in October would be minimal. The Soviet leadership—as well as Mr Khorunzhy—needs to recognize this fact.

The second point is that Mr Khorunzhy has got his facts wrong. The United States does not deploy some 1,100 tactical aircraft and missiles in and around Europe capable of delivering nuclear weapons against the Soviet homeland. At present, the United States deploys some 200 nuclear-capable aircraft in Central Europe as well as roughly 200 nuclear-capable aircraft aboard carriers operating in the vicinity of Europe. This compares with some 600 intermediate-range ballistic missiles, 600 medium bombers, 1,000 strike aircraft and some 400 land-based naval aircraft that could be used by the Soviet Union to deliver nuclear weapons against targets in Western Europe.

Finally, Mr Khorunzhy may well be correct that these weapons must sooner or later be introduced into negotiations. However, he should recognize that both western and Soviet nuclear-armed systems will have to be subject to limitation. Moreover, because these systems affect alliances and not merely super-power military calculations, it will be enormously difficult to deal with these weapons within a bilateral, US-Soviet framework.

Simply stated, there is a need for new instrumentalities to come to grips with the problems posed by nuclear-capable tactical aircraft, cruise missiles and Soviet medium-range bombers and missiles. Does Mr Khorunzhy have any ideas? Sincerely, RICHARD BURT, International Institute for Strategic Studies, 16 Adam Street, WC2.

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, Mr Carter appropriately enough began his recent fideside chat to the American nation: "Tonight I

want to have an unpleasant talk with you." His recent remarks to the Soviet Government and to the United States' foreign nuclear customers were also "unpleasant".

So it is not surprising that his cluster of policy demarches should have received a sour welcome—not only in Moscow, but at the European Parliament, at the International Conference on the Transfer of Nuclear Technology in Paris, and indeed in your own columns from Lord Chalfont (*The Times*, April 18) and Mr Richard Burt (April 19). But it would be alarming if the sourness continued, because here, at last, bound up in a surprisingly coherent package, is something not at all unlike what the world has long been asking of America: the Carter package includes proposals for super-power reductions in actual and in planned nuclear weapons; for a less euphoric international attitude towards the peaceful use of nuclear power; and for a clampdown on America's own disproportionate consumption of the world's oil and gas.

The Soviet Government's response to Mr Carter's disarmament package has been little short of appalling, and it must raise the question whether the Soviet Government still has any interest in disarmament. There has been no unanimous barrage in the Soviet, Czech, Bulgarian and East German media, attacking the American proposals: accusations range from "seeking unilateral advantage" to "seeking to deprive the Soviet Union of all its strategic forces, from 'insincerity on the issues of disarmament', to 'choosing to break the talks on reduction of strategic weapons'."

According to Mr Gromyko, the United States, in proposing reductions at all is breaking the "main content" of the Vladivostok accord, which was "that the United States and the Soviet Union will each have 2,400 strategic weapons" (emphasis added)—a figure, of course, requiring substantial increases on both sides. If that was indeed the main content of the accord, the accord itself was in breach of Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which unambiguously bound signatories "to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament". The SALT have in fact only succeeded in setting a framework for continued competition. Is Mr Gromyko now denouncing the Non-Proliferation Treaty in favour of the Vladivostok agreement and of that "build-up of the military might of the Soviet Union" which holds—unlike disarmament, which is not mentioned—such a central position in the Peace Programme of the Soviet Government?

Yours, etc, ELIZABETH YOUNG, 100 Bayswater Road, WC. April 25.

America and the ILO

From Mr J. A. G. Coates

Sir, James Reston, writing from Washington in your issue of April 28, suggests that when President Carter is in London next week he will want to find out if Europe takes him seriously and whether the free nations can work together for a new relationship between the industrial and developing nations of the world. If these are indeed among his questions, I hope that it is not too late to appeal to him to reconsider the US Government's notice of intention to withdraw from membership of the International Labour Organisation.

The ILO has been active for more than half a century in the protection of human rights and is unique in having an effective watchdog system, supervising, monitoring, and following up the application of international standards in the labour and social fields. There should be no undermining of this effort at a time when individual rights are increasingly under attack.

The ILO is making a vital contribution to the reduction of unemployment and under-employment by, for example, its programmes for training and technical assistance; it is, moreover, the only UN forum in which employers' and workers' organizations from both developed and developing countries (ie. those most directly involved) have the right of participation in international debate.

The reasons for America's frustration at the misuse of this platform for political purposes are fully understood by her friends, but we believe that there has been a change for the better and are disturbed at the effect which the withdrawal of an American presence from the forefront of the free world grouping would have upon the prospects of finding common ground for social and economic progress.

Yours faithfully, J. A. G. COATES, Employment Committee of the International Labour Organisation, Confederation of British Industry, 21 Tophill Street, SW1, April 29.

Accused in the dock

From Lady James of Rushmore

Sir, Mr J. Field Evans objects (April 26) to the suggestion of the Howard League working party, of which I was chairman, that the use of the dock should be abolished save in the small number of cases which pose a security risk. He says "the kind right one of their minds" the defendant under the present practice."

On the contrary, what can stigmatize a person more than being placed in a sort of pillory which in some courts is more like a wild animal's cage? A High Court judge described the use of the dock to us as "scapegoating". We respectfully agree.

Mr Evans objects that prejudice would be created against the small number of defendants who continued to appear in the dock. Then let the dock for which there is no reason, just as there is no reason, whatsover, be abolished, and let all defendants be seated behind a table, as they are for example in the great majority of the United States.

But, if, as we suggest, this is at present acceptable here, then take the case of defendants charged with bomb terrorism offences. The jury will almost certainly have read or seen something about the alleged offences, and the judge will direct them to put anything prejudicial to the kind right one of their minds when considering the evidence. Will he not likewise direct them to ignore any prejudice which might be created by the use of the dock?

We maintain that this is a small price to pay for the more humane treatment of the majority who would be spared the use of the dock is quite unnecessary.

Yours faithfully, CORDELIA JAMES, Pembill Cottage, West Winton, London, N York, April 28.

Cuttings job

From Mr Chris Dunsley

Sir, For the record: I've James is not, as Sheridan Moore suggested (*The Times*, April 25) "the first anthologized television critic". A collection of the late T. C. Worsley's columns from the *Financial Times* was published by Alan Ross in 1970 under the title *The Television Critic: The Ephemeral Art*. Very good it is, too. Yours faithfully, CHRIS DUNSELEY, 38 Leverton Street, NW5, April 25.

Coarse tennis

From Professor G. R. Dunstan

Sir, Real tennis was fashionable in England rather earlier than the Tudors (if I may add a note to Geoffrey Green's article today, April 30). It was played by the canons of Ottery St Mary and their lay friends within the precinct of their collegiate church in August, 1451, when it was forbidden by their bishop. They, or their fans, took the game seriously. By val, foul and profane words, by songs, leers and swelling oaths, by torrents of unlearned perjuries, they shamelessly occasioned such bawling, contention and yelling in the sacred churchyard that the devotions of Christian people coming there to pray for souls departed were vilely and damnable disturbed. The price of such ungentlemanly behaviour was I fear, excommunication. The latter prohibition is printed in the Register of Edmund Lacy, Bishop of Exeter, published by the Canterbury and York Society and the Devon and Cornwall Record Society. It provides useful material for speculation on the architecture of the court. Yours faithfully, G. R. DUNSTAN, Kings College London, Strand, WC2, April 30.

THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE POPE

After his first conversation with the Pope last week and before his second the Archbishop of Canterbury publicly urged that official sanction be given for Roman Catholics to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion at the hands of Anglican priests and vice versa. The two churches, he implied, had achieved such a degree of mutual respect, of recognition of their joint task of evangelisation, and of agreement "on so many of the fundamentals of the Gospel," that the time had come for official encouragement of inter-communion: "I was calling for the abolition of something which is already beginning to be practised without, or with only local, authority, and is more widely desired than it is yet practised. With the detestment of dogmatism in Christian consciousness and the establishment of the ecumenical movement, a growing number of the members of both churches have come to see reciprocal communion as a natural development devoutly to be wished."

Yet the Archbishop's call met no audible echo from the Pope. Nor is it difficult to see why. Roman Catholics, when speaking for their church, are wont to observe that inter-communion is a sign of unity, not a step on the road to unity or a means of accelerating the pace of its arrival. Behind that polite demur lurks the awkward fact that in

1896 Pope Leo XIII published his Bull *Apostolicae Curiae* which considered at length the status of Anglican orders and ended thus: "We pronounce and declare that ordinations carried out according to the Anglican rite have been and are absolutely null and void." If the priesthood is thought null and void, Eucharistic worship at its hands can hardly be thought suitable for reciprocal attendance.

Of course the Roman church, even the Roman Curia, has moved far away from the rigours of Leo's position—most notably when the Anglican and Roman Catholic joint commission of theologians reported their close agreement on Eucharistic doctrine a year or two ago. Nevertheless there stands *Apostolicae Curiae* still on the statute book, so to speak; and its repeal presents obvious difficulties in a church which invests with special degrees of infallibility its popes. (It is our view that *Apostolicae Curiae* does not fulfil the 1870 requirements for an infallible Papal pronouncement, but of course we are not incapable of error ourselves.) The new Anglican Ordinal, which awaits ratification, might offer Rome an opportunity to reconsider the question of Anglican orders and perhaps to by-pass *Apostolicae Curiae* without actually contradicting it. But it would be a

deliberate and lengthy process, which a pope of 79 may be reluctant to initiate.

Nor is it certain that if the question of Anglican orders were satisfactorily disposed of the way would be open to the official recognition by Rome of inter-communion. With the two controversial questions of Eucharistic doctrine and holy orders the joint commission of theologians elected to examine a third, authority in the church with special reference to the papacy. The three questions are closely related, in the Roman mind at any rate. In so far as the primacy of the Pope is conceived as a principle of unity in the Church, one might expect Rome to require that that question too should be satisfactorily resolved before it licensed general inter-communion.

These retarding considerations which no doubt weigh with the government of the Roman Catholic church are not the sort to impress those of its members in whom the ecumenical spirit already burns. As they increase in number and conviction the unauthorized practice of reciprocal communion may well spread to a point at which it acquired an impetus hardly to be resisted. But that would be for another pope, and speculation as to what the response would be had better await his election.

COURTS SHOULD SCRUTINIZE GOOD FAITH

The unhappy saga of the Hosenball and Agee deportations reaches its final chapter today, with a House of Commons debate on the subject. Nothing is likely to be said which could make any reference to the Home Secretary's decision to proceed with the deportations. Between the two of them, although not acting in concert, Messrs Hosenball and Agee have made use of every legal and procedural avenue open to them, in England, Scotland and Strasbourg. It is still open for Mr Hosenball to complain to the European Commission of Human Rights, but the short shrift given to Mr Agee when he applied to that body does not augur well for his chances. There is no reason to believe that the Home Secretary was wrong in his decision to deport the two men. There is, however, room for disquiet about the subsequent appeal or review machinery which comes into play once the decision has been made.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the affair was the very cautious approach of the Court of Appeal, especially with Lord Denning presiding. The court has in recent years become increasingly robust in questioning and going behind Ministerial decisions, as, for example, the Tameside and Gouret cases

showed. In both those cases, indeed, it exhibited some pride in its capacity to stand between the executive and the individual citizen. Admittedly, questions of national security raise particular difficulties for a court. It has faced such difficulties before, however, without apparent embarrassment.

In criminal trials for espionage, for instance, evidence about matters of national security is given in camera, but the judge hears it. If Mr Hosenball had been a British citizen, and a prosecution under the Official Secrets Act been undertaken, a trial court would have heard the evidence against him, and, if there had been an appeal, so would the Court of Appeal. Yet when Mr Hosenball came before it in March Lord Denning said in effect that once national security was in issue, the Court could give no help at all, not even to the extent of asking the Minister to give his reasons in private to the Court so that at least it could be determined that they were arrived at in good faith and were not totally without foundation.

A more positive approach along those lines could not in any sense have been interpreted as a move towards allowing a court to substitute its decision for that of the Minister. It is

difficult to see how security could have been endangered. Mr Hosenball would still not have known details of the "charges" against him. It would, however, have introduced a safeguard against Ministerial abuse of discretionary power. It is not being suggested that there was any such abuse in these cases, nor that the Home Secretary's decision was wrong. It is inevitable that any decision to deport made on security grounds will attract criticism and be considered by many with a feeling of unease.

The exercise by the Courts of a power to scrutinize such a decision would, however, be a more satisfactory way of dealing with such a sensitive issue than the unsatisfactory advisory committee procedure. The courts ought to be willing to take such a power. It would be totally consistent with the postwar development of their attitude towards Ministerial decisions and fiat. In this case we have an honest Minister, acting on grounds that are probably reasonable, and facing some political unpopularity. It cannot be assumed that Britain will never have a dishonest Minister willing to act on flimsy grounds in order to court popularity or protect his power.

Civil Service and TUC

From Mr P. J. Circus

Sir, What is a civil servant? I was told that the principal reason why civil servants should not get involved in party politics is that public confidence in an impartial public service would be endangered as a result. The same reason should, I think,

be applied to the issue of whether or not Civil Service unions should affiliate to the TUC.

Few would doubt that civil servants will continue faithfully to serve the democratically elected government of the day whatever its political complexion. It is essential, therefore, that an impartial Civil Service should be seen to be such. By joining the ranks of a

politically motivated Labour movement Civil Service unions are risking the loss of public confidence in that impartiality and political neutrality on which the whole notion of a permanent Civil Service depends.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP J. CIRCUS, 62 Gloucester Street, SW1, April 29.

GLC rates

From the Deputy Leader of the GLC

Sir, I despair of factual inaccuracies which appear repeatedly in articles on the GLC. In George Hutchins's article of April 23 he refers to a rise in rates of 235 per cent since 1973. The facts are that in 1975 (ie the 1975-76 budget) the GLC precept rose from 9.5p to 17p, an increase of only 79 per cent. Since then the GLC precept has remained steady at 17p. I suspect that Mr Hutchins is simply repeating as fact the statement of the Conservative opposition to precept rises since 1974. This statement takes account of the transfer of services from the GLC

but ignores the fact that the previous Conservative administration grossly under-provided for inflation in 1973-74.

Are the fundamental questions as to the good government of London (at a critical time in the devolution debate) to be decided on major inaccuracies?

Yours faithfully, ILLTYD HARRINGTON, The County Hall, SE1.

Arts Council changes

From Mr Hugh Jenkins, MP for Putney (Labour)

Sir, May I say, with reference to your entirely accurate report (April 16) on what I said to a conference on the arts last week, that I have never said nor believed that Lord Gibson had anything to do with my loss of office as Minister for the Arts. Personal relations between us were always good.

But may I also say that attempts to introduce a representationally accountable element into the Arts Council were in fulfilment of the Labour Party's Election undertaking to make the Council "more democratic". They had nothing whatever to do with syndicalism which I certainly do not advocate: nor do I agree with the view that the Arts Council should be abolished and replaced by an alternative structure. The modest changes I proposed, and which were so strongly resisted by Lord Gibson, would have made the calls for more drastic alterations less convincing than they have now become.

Yours faithfully, HUGH JENKINS, House of Commons.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 2: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Buckingham Palace today for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness left Euston Station in the Royal Train this evening for Balmoral, Scotland.

The Duchess of Grafton, Mr William Heseltine, Air Vice-Marshal Brian Stanbury and Major Robin Brooke were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales this morning at Windsor Castle presided at a meeting of the Prince's Council and later entertained the members of the Council to luncheon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 2: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, was present this evening at a Concert and Buffet Supper held at the Fishmongers' Hall in aid of St Peter's Research Trust. Miss Susanna Crier was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester opened the evening by playing the Te Deum. The Duchess of Gloucester, Mr William Heseltine, Air Vice-Marshal Brian Stanbury and Major Robin Brooke were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
May 2: The Duchess of Kent this evening attended the Yehudi Menuhin Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in support of the endowment of a Chair in Education for International Understanding at the University of London.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

TRATCHELD LODGE
May 2: Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a performance by Elton John, in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, at the Rainbow Theatre, Finsbury Park.

The Lady Mary Fitzherbert-Howard was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as chancellor, presided at the conferment of honorary degrees at Leeds University on May 11.

There will be a memorial service for Sir Peter Kirk, MP, on Thursday, May 4, at St Margaret's, Westminster, at noon.

Birthdays today
Sir Michael Duff, 70, the Earl of Dundee, 73, Sir William Glick, 69, Sir John Glyn, 49, Miss Alice Head, 91, Major-General Sir Ralph Hume, 81, Sir Martin Wallace, 78.

Persian miniature fetches £40,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

An unexpected premium was paid yesterday for the best seventeenth-century Persian miniature. Sotheby's had an offer for two by Mu'alla, a follower of Reza Abbasi, the most highly regarded artist of the period. The portrait of a young prince dressed in red and holding a thin cane, estimated at £15,000, fetched £40,000. The second, a miniature of a woman in a blue dress, was sold for £12,000.

The third unexpected price was for a miniature attributed to the artist Zaman, dated about 1650-70. An elderly man in a red robe, holding a staff, was sold for £12,000.

A page of a manuscript, dated 1590, was sold for £1,000. It was a miniature of a young prince, which fetched £40,000.

Fortcoming marriages

Mr C. N. O. Capper and Miss S. L. Palat
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs N. D. O. Capper, of Ullingswold, Herefordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs D. Palat, of 15 Redcliffe Square, London, NW10, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Palat.

Mr G. T. Cockburn and Miss E. M. Balfie
The engagement is announced between Gordon, only son of Mr and Mrs T. Cockburn, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1, and Diane, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Balfie, Belfast.

Mr J. A. Coon and Miss E. M. Kirby
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Coon, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1, and Elinor, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Kirby, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1.

Mr D. J. C. Kesterton and Miss D. R. Hart Jackson
The engagement is announced between Donald John Gregory, son of Mr and Mrs D. J. C. Kesterton, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1, and Diane, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. R. Hart Jackson, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1.

Mr D. J. C. Kesterton and Miss D. R. Hart Jackson
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Mr S. D. Mann and Miss P. R. Ward
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs S. D. Mann, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1, and Pamela, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. R. Ward, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1.

Mr N. C. Souter and Miss C. C. Waidie
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs N. C. Souter, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. C. Waidie, of 15, Regent Square, London, W1.

Latest wills
Mrs Beatrice Bradley, of Blackpool, left £45,520 net. After various bequests she left the residue to her husband, Mr. J. Bradley, and to her daughter, Mrs. J. Bradley, in equal shares. Her estate included (net, before duty paid, duty not assessed): Cash, £10,000; stocks, £10,000; bonds, £10,000; real estate, £10,000; and other property, £10,000.



Mr Bernard Hailstone putting the finishing touches to his portrait of Princess Anne in the uniform of Commandant of the WRNS, at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters' annual exhibition, which opens today at the Mall Galleries, London.

Latest appointments

Rearm-Admiral W. T. Pillar, Port Admiral Rosyth, to be Assistant Chief of Fleet Support in November, in succession to Rear-Admiral J. S. C. Lea.

Sir Charles Groves to be president of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, in succession to the late Lord Britton.

Mr Eric Morley, chairman and managing director of Mecca, to be president of Variety Clubs International for two years.

Mr Charles Kelly, deputy chief constable of Staffordshire, to be chief constable, in succession to Mr Arthur Rees, who retires.

Marriages

Mr R. P. Gray and Miss E. S. Halpin
The marriage took place at St Mary's Church, Primrose Hill, on April 30 between Mr Richard Paul Gray, younger son of Dr and Mrs J. Gray, of Chigwell, Essex, and Miss Emma Serena Halpin, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. R. C. Halpin, of Hampstead, London, NW3.

Mr J. J. J. and Miss L. Kingsbury
The marriage took place quietly in the home of the bride at 15 Portman Square, W1, and Miss Lucilla Kingsbury, of 10 Penance Lane, W1, only daughter of the late Mr Arthur W. G. Kingsbury and Mrs Kingsbury, of St Martin's Farmhouse, Bladon, Oxford.

Mr J. Sacher and Miss R. Corbett
The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Jeremy Sacher and Miss Rosalind Corbett. A reception was held at Claridge's hotel and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Greenhalgh, Mr John Davenport, of Hindhead, left £162,421. His estate included (net, before duty paid, duty not assessed): Cash, £10,000; stocks, £10,000; bonds, £10,000; real estate, £10,000; and other property, £10,000.

Greenhalgh, Mr John Davenport, of Hindhead, left £162,421. His estate included (net, before duty paid, duty not assessed): Cash, £10,000; stocks, £10,000; bonds, £10,000; real estate, £10,000; and other property, £10,000.

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Dr Coggan meets World Council's leaders

From Jacob Ecclesstone
Geneva, May 2

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, arrived in Geneva today on the third and final stage of his pilgrimage in search of greater Christian unity. After discussions with the Pope in Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, he completes his journey by visiting the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

No formal talks are planned during the two-day visit, though the archbishop will presumably report on his discussions with the leaders of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

As the Roman Catholic Church was not a member of the WCC, the Anglican communion, because of the warmth of its relations with Rome, is in the position of providing an Ecumenical bridge with Geneva. Apart from the diplomatic value as Archbishop of Canterbury developing personal contacts with the WCC leaders, there is also a great deal of work to be done in preparation for the Lambeth conference of Anglican bishops which is to be held next year.

Before leaving Istanbul Dr Coggan and the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I signed a common statement in which they agreed to co-operate in theological discussions between the two churches. The document also referred to the ordination of women and said that "the Anglican Church was not seeking the agreement of the Orthodox Church on such issues but was hoping for understanding of it."

Leading article, page 15

BBC television to film programmes in China

By Kenneth Gossling
London

Three programmes about China, to be filmed by a BBC television team between the middle of this month and early July, will be a result of negotiations now in their final stages. Permission is also being sought to make one or two programmes in China every year.

Budget details are still being worked out, but Mr Aubrey Singer, Controller, BBC, who will be making his first visit to China this month, said the cost would not be as high as on previous occasions.

Previously, the BBC has produced two archaeological documentaries, a programme covering a tour by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and a Tomorrow's World.

The new series, which will be broadcast in the autumn, will be produced by three reporters, including Julian Pettifer. The operation will be headed by Peter Ibbotson, of the BBC's Chinese Service, who visited China last October and in March.

Mr Singer said they had viewed a lot of Chinese film and were interested in some of the material. They were also impressed by Chinese colour equipment and of Chinese coverage of events such as the national sports. There was a great diversity of output, including the use of helicopters to cover the country.

He thought the impression of China that would be given in the new programmes would be a special Chinese week on BBC2, with programmes about the country and its people, and a Tomorrow's World.

Some British programmes have been bought by the Chinese for study. They include features in the Horizon and Chronicle series.

Today's engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, launches Invisibles, a BBC television series, at the Palace, 11.30.

The Prince of Wales commissions silver jubilee tax presented by the London Cab Company on behalf of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, 11.45.

Chairman of appeal, visits Lloyd's Bank to inspect incoming silver jubilee cash, 12.15.

Street, 11.45; are also attending a dinner of the Royal Society, 12.30.

Princess Margaret visits Keele College for opening of new building, 12.30.

The Duke of Gloucester presents national prizes to winners of Health and Safety Executive's child safety on farms competition, 10.35.

Armourers & Brasers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Armourers and Brasers' Company for the coming year.

Chairman: Colonel G. G. Chittenden.

Vice-Chairman: Dr B. T. Brown.

Musical awards

The Boose Foundation has made awards of £500 each for advanced studies in music performance to students of the Royal College of Music, and Alison Jack, soprano, former student of the Royal Northern College of Music.

Prize for writer

Richard Boston, author of *Beer and Stitches*, was named yesterday as Glendinning writer of the year for 1976. He also won a special prize for his book.

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM HART

Former Clerk to the GLC

Sir William Hart, CMG, a former Clerk of London County Council and subsequently Director-General and Clerk to the Greater London Council, died on April 29 at the age of 73. After his retirement from the chairmanship of the GLC he was chairman of Northampton New Town Development Corporation.

William Ogden Hart was born in May, 1903, and was educated at Rugby and New College, Oxford, where he took a Double First in Jurisprudence and Civil Law. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1928 but remained a barrister for 20 years after graduating and was a Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, from 1926 to 1947, though he showed his interest in local government by his energetic membership of Oxford City Council from 1935 to 1939. He was Bursar of Wadham from 1928 to 1940 and was Tutor from 1934 to 1947. In 1934 he was joint author with his father, Sir William E. Hart, of *An Introduction to the Law of Local Government and Administration*.

At the outbreak of war however, he quitted academia for the Civil Service where he worked at the Ministry of Shipping and went with the British Merchant Shipping Mission to Washington in 1941. He became Head of the Mission in 1944.

He was made a CMG for his war work in 1946.

Though he was reappointed University Lecturer in Law at Oxford in 1946 he eventually decided not to return to the university and to become, instead, an administrator. In 1947 he was appointed General Manager of the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation, one of the first new towns to be established under the New Towns Act of 1946. This position he directed until 1955 and in the following year was appointed to Britain's top local government post, that of Clerk of the London County Council. Here he was for the next 13 years, his office being transferred, with the changes in London's local government, to that of Director-General and Clerk to the Greater London Council in 1964. In this post, to which he brought his formidable intellectual qualifications as well as wide administrative experience and a fund of great energy, he was a popular and highly respected chief. And on his retirement from the GLC in 1968 he was appointed Chairman of the Northampton New Town Development Corporation and held this post until last year. He was knighted in 1961.

He married, in 1924, Dorothy Eileen, daughter of Colonel D. W. Churchill. They had three sons and one daughter.

PROFESSOR J. McLEAN THOMPSON

Emeritus Professor John McLean Thompson, Holbrook Gaskell Professor of Botany in the University of Liverpool from 1921 to 1952, died on April 17, aged 89. With his death, British botany has lost one of its last great distinguished figures of the last half of the nineteenth century and the early years of this.

Born in Rothsay, he went to the local academy and thence to Glasgow University. There he studied under the renowned P. O. Bower. It is not therefore surprising that McLean Thompson should devote his life's work in botany to morphological aspects, in his particular case floral structure. Though an expert in the radiated enthusiasm for his subject whether in the lecture room or on the printed page. Right up to his death, he remained keenly interested in botany, always eager to hear about recent work. His wide interests were typified by his fact that between 1910 and 1921 he was successively Demonstrator in Geology and Senior Assistant in Botany at Glasgow University, then (during the war) Protozoologist at the Military Hospital in the West of Scotland, and then Lecturer in Plant Morphology in Glasgow University.

He brought to Liverpool enthusiasm and energy which led to the development of a thriving department. He produced a steady stream of publications based on his researches which were undoubtedly helped by his visits to Colombia, Dominica, Venezuela, and Panama in 1930 and 1931. His published work frequently contained many illustrations made from his own splendid drawings of plant material. He was Dean of the Faculty of Science at Liverpool in 1930 and 1931. He is remembered with great affection by many generations of students and colleagues who assisted in Liverpool, who appreciated the philosophy which he introduced into the teaching of his scientific subject. Perhaps in his later years he will be remembered by those who were encouraged by his example as a recorder. His story of those who made up the small circle of biological workers in the early part of the century, the names of many of whom we now regard as of the greatest importance, are to his many friends and acquaintances an insight into a totally different world of scientific activity from that which we know today.

He married Dr. Susan Dore, whom he met at Glasgow University while she was studying Medicine there; her father had brought his family to Scotland from Belgium to escape the Germans who occurred in Belgium during the First World War.

MR H. M. BASNER

A correspondent writes:

Mr H. M. Basner, a former Senator of the South African Parliament, died in Hereford on April 13. He was 71.

He passionately disapproved of the violence of the Apartheid system and considered his election as an opportunity to hold meetings in areas where otherwise no public expression of mass political feeling could be legally organized. His energy was devoted to reorganizing the African National Congress as the true expression of the will of the Black population.

Born in Dvinsk, Latvia, he came to South Africa as a child and was educated there and at the University of California. From 1930, Basner practised as an attorney in Johannesburg. He became known as an outstanding defender of African rights in the courts at a time when lawyers were rarely prepared to be so, especially in rural areas.

Among those for whom he acted were leading figures in the African National Congress, King Sobhuza of Swaziland, the Paramount and other Chiefs of Basutoland and hundreds of poor and oppressed individuals.

In 1942 he was elected to the Senate of the South African Parliament by the Africans of the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

Soon after becoming an attorney, he joined the Communist Party which he left in protest at the invasion of Finland.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

A correspondent writes:

Your obituary of Sir John Sinclair ends in 1945 when he ceased to be Director of Military Intelligence. As his KCMG in 1953 indicates he stayed on in Government service for a further 10 years until he retired in 1955.

These 10 years were difficult years of transition from war to peace with the threat of war hanging over them. They saw the forging of the United States/United Kingdom special relationship; the healing of war wounds, particularly in Europe; and the problems of independence in developing countries. To all these problems, as he was affected, he was deeply involved. He was a man of great energy and determination, and above all high moral standards and an integrity of purpose.

MR ROBERT ST JOHN ROPER

Mr Robert St John Roper, the theatrical costume designer, died in Southend-on-Sea on Friday. He was 64.

His skill in design was often seen in the field of the show business, and he was currently represented in the Town Razzle Dazzle and by shows at the Latin Quarter.

His designs for television were seen most recently in the John Curry Xmas Show. Spectacular and will be seen in a yet-to-be-produced-Sandy-Baxter Show. His work was also seen in the film *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.

St John Roper was a leader in his field for more than 40 years; he worked on more than 40 major productions with the producer Robert Nesbitt, had a 17-year run at the London Palladium, and had worked extensively in the United States.

Science report

Aviation: Dangers of vortices behind aircraft

Aviation: Dangers of vortices behind aircraft

Intrepid pilots have flown aircraft directly into the wake of jumbo jets (at great altitude it should be added) and have shown that light aircraft can be rolled over by the higher speed air spun into jet engines and the compressor. But the British contribution has been unique in accumulating evidence from pilots flying in a routine manner. The evidence was presented to the Cambridge conference by Mr Oliver St John, of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

In the early years of the jumbo jet vortices incidents led the United States to impose a 10-mile spacing between a jumbo and a following smaller plane. At the speeds of jumbo jets, the vortices are four-minute intervals. It was later relaxed in the United Kingdom to a five-minute (two-minute) separation in opposite directions. Of course, it also leaves other disturbances of lesser importance. Those vortices interact with each other, as they do with a net down ward movement; the sink rate is typically a few metres a second, even very close to the ground.

The vorticity does not persist indefinitely; it will be eventually broken up, and will be helped in the process by any other turbulence. The air stream vortices generate turbulence and so aid the destruction of vortices. Further, a cross-wind will also ensure that the vorticity is soon swept away from the path of following aircraft.

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Would the TUC respond to surgery, page 19

Banks cut rates but building societies likely to hold back

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

Cheaper money trends were carried a stage further yesterday with leading banks announcing a fresh cut in their rates, this time by a half per cent, to 8½ per cent.

The latest cut, the second in three days, makes the seventh reduction since the start of the year when they stood at a record 14 per cent. The cost of loans to blue-chip companies will come down to 9½ per cent, while most personal overdrafts will carry interest in a band of 11½ to 13 per cent.

At the same time, the banks have also maintained the margin between base rates and the interest rates they offer to smaller depositors by dropping the deposit rate from 4½ to 4 per cent.

Whether the recent cuts in the deposit rate are going to lead to a significant switch of savings from the banks to the building societies remains to be seen. Some banks have modest surplus funds, but are uncertain if this reflects their competitive disadvantage in relation to building societies which offer 7 per cent net of standard rate tax, or simply the pressure on living standards continues.

Figures for new savings placed with building societies in April, however, are likely to point to the former. The societies' net receipt figures, due to be published on May 12, will be close to the previous

monthly record of £400m established in April 1975. In March the societies took in just over £200m.

Although the April figures are bound to increase the clamour for a further reduction in building society interest rates, it is highly unlikely that the societies will take any decisions before their mid-June meeting.

Apart from the administrative problems of making a new cut in rates so soon after the one announced in April, the societies will be keen to see the trend in the May inflow before making any further reduction.

Some societies fear that the April figures may prove exceptional, representing savings switches rather than underlying growth. They want firm evidence that the societies are making in at least £200m a month on a sustainable basis.

This is the kind of figure required both to satisfy mortgage demand running at £500m-plus a month and also to enable a modest rebuilding of a depleted fund that was run down during the winter investment famine.

Also, the societies will be in a better position in mid-June to assess how interest rates could move over the rest of the year.

Opinion on where interest rates go from here are divided, but some money-market operators are expecting a tightening of interest rates within the next few weeks.

House prices and letters, page 18; Golden, day 19

Lonrho free from UK restraint on dividends

By Ronald Pollen

Lonrho yesterday became the latest of the growing throng of companies which have obtained exemption from United Kingdom dividend restraint on the grounds that its main trading operations lie outside this country.

This news pushed up the shares 6p to 76p on the stock market, although it was not accompanied by any rise in the more than three times covered dividend.

Last month Lonrho received Treasury permission to raise its dividend 30 per cent to 9.5p a share gross following a £12m rights call only six months after an earlier dividend-hoarding cash-raising exercise.

Pre-tax profits for the year to the end of September are heading for another record owing to an improving sugar price and sharply increased dividends from, for example, its South African mining interests.

Its recent buying of United Kingdom assets will help to relieve its problems over remittability of overseas earnings and advance corporation tax difficulties.

There is also a possibility that Lonrho's claim for damages against six oil companies in connection with the Belfair-Umtali oil pipeline will be settled out of court.

In this case compensation will be treated as a capital item and could boost earnings by a minimum of 15p a share.

As it is, Lonrho's exemption looks to have been timed fortuitously since after its purchase of Brentford, Mynona, Dunford & Elliott, Suits and London City and Westcliffe, consolidation of these assets would mean that the group would be unable to meet the Treasury guidelines in a year's time.

Financial Editor, page 19

Delicate negotiations in Poland and Nigeria nearing day of decision Britain pursues £290m ship orders

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Negotiations on much needed shipbuilding orders worth nearly £300m for British shipyards have reached a critical stage. A team of experts from the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders is in Poland involved in negotiations for a 22-ship order worth £150m.

Later this week a three-man delegation led by Mr. Michael Casey, chief executive-designate of the new state shipbuilding group, will fly to Nigeria for talks on a deal worth up to £160m.

Both countries have been in the pipeline for several months, and it is clear that both Poland and Nigeria are nearing the final decisions. Members of the organizing committee are also involved in studying a variety of measures including the possibility of lease-back arrangements with British shipowners—in a bid to attract orders to United Kingdom yards. But the new state organization, which has still to be formally constituted, is working at considerable disadvantages, and the committee lacks detailed financial information on the companies which it is due to take over on July 1.

The Polish and Nigerian contracts, if they are secured, would provide British shipyards with a valuable boost. The Finance would be provided through Export Credits Guarantee Department to 70 per cent of the total cost, with the balance raised from commercial sources.

Those officials from the organizing committee and from Whitehall who are at present in Poland hope the deal will be within the next few weeks.

The Nigerian project involves 19 ships—general cargo liners of 12,000 deadweight tons and 16,000 tons deadweight—and Swan Hunter and state owned Sunderland Shipbuilders have formed a consortium for the deal, which could be worth up to £160m. Main competitors for the contract are from Japan and South Korea.

At the end of last week the organizing committee received a request to send a delegation to Lagos for further talks later this week, and the feeling is that the United Kingdom has a strong chance of winning at least part of the overall Nigerian order. The South Koreans are understood to have quoted the lowest price, but the chances are that the Nigerian national line will divide the contract between Britain and Japan.

Today government delegates from West European shipbuilding nations and from Japan will start a two-day meeting in Paris under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to discuss the world shipbuilding situation.

European delegates are expected to express dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of Japan's decision earlier this year to raise the export price of its ships by 5 per cent, while Japan will express concern at the spread of subsidies in European shipbuilding countries.



Mr. Michael Casey: Chasing £160m Nigerian shipping orders.

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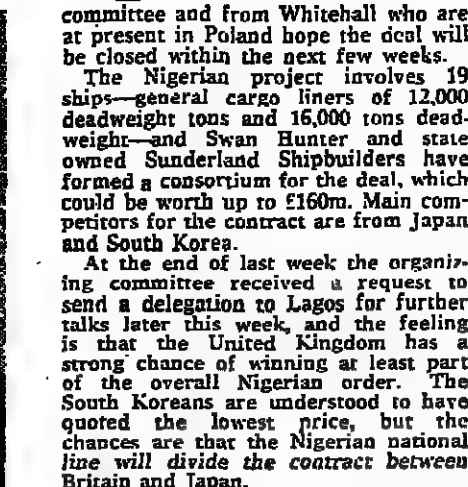
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European delegates are expected to express dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of Japan's decision earlier this year to raise the export price of its ships by 5 per cent, while Japan will express concern at the spread of subsidies in European shipbuilding countries.

Those officials from the organizing committee and from Whitehall who are at present in Poland hope the deal will be within the next few weeks.

LAING MANAGEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

Challenge to rival union in battle of Whetstone

A new turn was taken yesterday in the "spheres of influence" struggle between the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Engineers and Managers Association (EMA).

It had looked as if TASS had won the first round of the inter-union battle over recruitment of professional engineers when the TUC disputes committee last month found in its favour at the GEC Reactor Equipment complex at Whetstone, Leicestershire.

The case, which involves some 350 professional engineers, went to the disputes committee under the Bridlington agreement covering inter-union poaching of members.

The committee's decision was a serious setback for EMA, which under Mr. John Lyons, its general secretary, has been pursuing an expansionist policy for new members. EMA membership now stands at around 45,000.

Now EMA has taken a new step over the Whetstone case by placing it before the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Similar action was taken some months ago by the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE), which is also fighting to bring more Whetstone professional engineers into its membership. However, UKAPE, unlike TASS and EMA, is not affiliated to the TUC.

Mr. Lyons said last night: "We have the statutory right to have the question of recognition of the union at Whetstone determined under the terms of the Employment Protection Act. That means, through a questionnaire, the views of the people concerned will have to be taken into account. We are determined to settle this matter. We expect to win."

Mr. Lyons's hopes are based on the apparent line-up so far among the professional engineers at Whetstone. Around 110 already belong to EMA and Mr. Lyons claims that less than 50 are UKAPE members, while about another 40 belong to TASS.

In talks with the GEC management considerable dissatisfaction has surfaced among some of the professional engineers at the prospect of TASS being recognized as their sole negotiating body.

Whetstone is only the first of several battlegrounds now likely to emerge as EMA pursues its expansionist policy. It recently put in a claim to be recognized as negotiating union for around 400 professional engineers at the Westinghouse Brake and Signal factory at Chippingham.

Here, there is a potential clash with the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), whose general secretary is Mr. Clive Jenkins. But the staff association there has thrown its lot with EMA.

Derek Harris

A300 airbus flies into US market

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Eastern Airlines, the United States domestic carrier, announced last night that it is to lease four A300 airbuses made by the European consortium formed by the aircraft industries of France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain.

The airline will use them on its daily line between New York and Florida, with an option to buy them if the trial is successful.

The Airbus consortium has been trying without success so far to break into the lucrative American market. A few weeks ago Western, another big domestic airline, looked set to place an order, but at the last minute it announced that it would buy Boeing aircraft instead.

A firm order by Eastern could bring new work to the factories of the newly-nationalized British aircraft industry, as Hawker Siddeley makes the wings for this 300-seater. So far, world sales have been slow, with nine airlines placing orders, and 32 aircraft in service.

Eastern will operate the A300 with 26 first-class seats and 211 in the economy section. The first of the four will be delivered by early August and begin service in late November. All four will be in service by the peak season beginning the middle of December.

The airline already has a large fleet of Lockheed TriStar airbuses powered by British Rolls-Royce RB211 engines.

Crédit Suisse sets up special inquiry panel

From Peter Norman
Firm, May 2

After a special session this evening, the board of directors of the Crédit Suisse announced that they are setting up a special commission to investigate the circumstances of the bank's losses at both local and head office levels.

The membership of the commission will be drawn from the board of directors, which is the equivalent to a German supervisory board rather than a board of management.

The Liechtenstein Government today joined the list of those investigating the circumstances surrounding losses at the Chasse branch of Crédit Suisse.

A statement issued in the capital, Vaduz, said the Government had ordered the Liechtenstein public prosecutor to investigate whether the Liechtenstein-based holding company Texon Finanzanstalt had committed offences punishable under Liechtenstein law.

It is through the Texon Finanzanstalt that the three arrested senior officers of the Credit Suisse's Chasse branch are said to have misdirected fiduciary funds totalling 2,000m Swiss francs (about £510m), primarily into the Italian Wine-food, Albarola-Mare and Ampagias groups.

So far Crédit Suisse has admitted that the activities of its Chasse management have involved the bank in losses of up to 250m francs.

Today's statement from Liechtenstein underlined that the Texon Finanzanstalt was not licensed to engage in banking business.

Liechtenstein's announcement means there are now seven bodies investigating the Crédit Suisse losses. Besides the Crédit Suisse itself, which has a team of 50 men trying to unravel the full story, the affair has also involved the Swiss banking commission, the public prosecutor's office in Lugano, the Swiss federal tax authorities and the Swiss National Bank.

Financial Editor, page 19

NEB signs pact opposed by tanners group

By Ronald Emler

In an attempt to pressurize the Government against allowing Hitachi to set up an assembly plant in the North-East, British tanners have produced figures indicating a serious threat to employment.

The companies say the Japanese plant could lead to a net loss of between 2,250 and 6,000 jobs.

This calculation is contained in a background note being circulated by the industry, with the support of interested unions, to MPs.

Under present international licensing agreements Hitachi would be able to export a maximum of 50 per cent of its United Kingdom output. It is also assumed that the Japanese company would only employ some 250 people itself initially and could provide jobs for 1,000 people if it reached its production target.

At that higher level, the United Kingdom industry calculates that domestic manufacturers would see a loss of 1,500 jobs in direct manufacture. A further 2,500 jobs would go as the result of marginal activities having to close.

Since Hitachi would import tubes and many components it is calculated that a further 3,000 jobs would disappear in the component supply industry.

Hitachi plant threatens up to 6,000 jobs, industry says

By Ronald Emler

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Meriden and NVT agree marketing deal

By Ronald Emler

Meriden motor cycle cooperative and the "parent" company, Norton Villiers Triumph, concluded a deal yesterday over the NVT marketing operation.

The co-operative, an unincorporated firm, has taken over for nearly £2m the worldwide stock of Triumph Bonneville motor cycles.

NVT has also received, according to the letter to shareholders, "a considerable amount of money for Triumph special roofing, spare parts and equipment related to marketing, and all the relevant intangible assets."

Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC group put up about £1m of immediate finance and longer term investment funds.

The Times index: 177.73-1.02
The FT index: 430.7-2.1

Financial Editor, page 19

Standard Chartered announce that on and after 3rd May, 1977 the following annual rates will apply

Base rate 8½%
(Reduced from 9%)

Deposit rate 4%
(Reduced from 4½%)

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

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WHAT ITALIAN PRODUCTS INTEREST YOU?

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ADVERTISMENT

APOLOGY TO MR. W. G. STERN

The Officers of the Residents' Association at Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7, circulated their monthly newsletter to June 1976, a draft article which they were inviting members to bring to the attention of the media and which was headed "Residents facing the Stern realities of the Bankruptcy of Albert Court."

The article was defamatory of Mr. William Stern, who was, until June 1976, Chairman and Managing Director of Wilmar Securities Limited, of which there were a large number of subsidiary companies. One of the subsidiary companies in the Group was Metropolitan Property Holdings Limited, a company concerned largely with property investment. Mr. Stern was in effective control of the whole Group which was widely referred to, informally, as the "Stern Group."

Mr. Stern remains today a Director of Metropolitan Property Holdings Limited, which acquired the block of flats known as Albert Court in March 1974.

Mr. Stern commenced legal proceedings against Messrs. Percival, Moore and Stanning in relation to the defamatory article because it contained imputations to the effect that:—

1. He was attempting to manipulate the Liquidator of the Stern Group in order to make a quick profit, either for himself, for friends of his, or for a company in which he has a direct interest. In particular the article referred to "Jamboree Holdings Limited," a Jersey based company which had acquired certain properties from the Liquidator, some of whose principals or directors were said to be the same as those of the Stern companies now being liquidated by Messrs. Percival, Moore & Stanning.

BP to operate Buchan oilfield

By Ronald Emler

British Petroleum announced yesterday it had reached agreement to take over the operation of the Buchan field and the North Buchan structure of the North Sea.

Under the deal, which is subject to Department of Energy approval, BP will obtain a stake of just over 50 per cent in the field's production.

The agreement was concluded with City Petroleum, CCP North Sea Associates, and Gas and Oil Acreege, three of the participants in the Transworld Petroleum Consortium.

Views divided over choice of oil route

Washington's Federal Power Commission is equally divided on which two pipeline routes across Canada should be constructed to bring Alaskan gas to the United States.

How the markets moved

By Ronald Emler

Equities were subdued. Gold edged securities showed little change. Dollar premium 121.25 per cent (effective rate 45.514 per cent). Sterling was up 3 points at 51.716. The effective rate was 61.7 per cent.

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THE POUND

Bank buys 1.61
Bank sells 1.56
Australia \$ 30.25
Austria Sch 28.5
Belgium Fr 64.25
Canada \$ 1.84
Denmark Kr 10.56
Finland Mk 7.20
France Fr 8.42
Germany Dm 4.22
Greece Dr 64.75
Hongkong \$ 8.30
Italy Lr 1545.00
Japan Yn 500.00
Netherlands Gld 4.37
Norway Kr 9.34
Portugal Esc 68.00
S Africa Rd 2.07
Spain Pes 117.50
Sweden Kr 7.23
Switzerland Fr 4.50
US \$ 1.76
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25

Rates for small remittance base notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclay's Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1721.5 (previous 1714.4).

Reports pages 20, 21 and 22

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Footwear imports still climbing but exports show improvement

By Our Commercial Editor

Imports of foreign footwear, much of it sharply undercutting British production in price, are still climbing, according to the latest figures from the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation. But British exports are showing an encouraging improvement.

Foreign imports amounted to 39 million pairs in the first three months of this year, a rise of rather more than 25 per cent over the same period last year.

If imports continued to come in at this rate during the rest of this year, foreign production would take well over 60 per cent of the British retail market, compared with the present penetration of about 42 per cent.

Footwear manufacturers and trade unions are so alarmed at the increased foreign penetration that an application is going shortly to Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, asking for protection under the Article 19 safeguard clause of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

There are fears that the flood of foreign imports could rise dramatically later this year, as United States protectionist measures depart at least an extra 100 million pairs, largely to the European market, and particularly Britain.

Fears are also growing that Canada may soon take some form of protectionist action against imports, diverting even more from the Far East—into European markets.

Britain exports in the first three months of this year reached 4.9 million pairs, a rise of 13.9 per cent over the same period of last year. Value of these exports was £23.7m, an increase of just over 53 per cent.

This is particularly encouraging because the greater proportion of British exports occur later in the year, as a result of British specialization in heavier weight quality footwear, more suitable to winter wear.

Reports from United Kingdom retailers are not so far encouraging on this spring's sales. Bad weather has delayed sales of women's spring and summer fashions. Manufacturers are also worried at the persistent rises in leather prices.

House prices resume upward trend after temporary decline

By Margaret Stone

House prices have resumed their upward trend after a temporary dip in February. Latest statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment show that average house prices rose by 1 per cent in the first quarter of 1977.

New house prices rose by about 1 per cent to £14,000, while the average price of second hand homes rose by 3 per cent to £13,200. Both figures are based on mortgage approvals.

Despite the relative shortage of mortgage funds in the first quarter of the year, it is interesting to see that the building societies did not ration

mortgage funds by asking prospective purchasers to increase their deposits.

The average advance in the first quarter was 63 per cent of the asking price compared with 64 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1976 and 66 per cent in the first quarter.

Less optimism: Private house-builders are less optimistic about the level of activity in the sector.

A Department of the Environment survey issued yesterday shows that at the end of March speculative builders expected to start 145,000 houses and flats this year. At the end of November a similar survey showed estimated starts at 155,000.

ECGD rebuts critics over credit hold-ups

By Melvyn Westlake

Strung by criticisms by exporters over delays in getting credit insurance from the Government-run Export Credits Guarantee Department, Mr Derek Smith, a senior ECGD official, yesterday blamed exporters themselves for some of the delays.

The exporters complain that when they sell overseas on, say, three months' credit, they could lose business if they cannot get the ECGD to accept the insurance risk quickly.

Speaking at a London Chamber of Commerce export seminar, Mr Smith said that exporters should make greater use of the higher discretionary limits now available when extending credit to overseas buyers.

Since February 1976 exporters have been able to give up to £5,000 credit—twice the previous limit—on short-term export business before needing approval from ECGD.

Mr Smith said that more than a quarter of the "credit limit"

applications received by the ECGD could be accommodated within the improved discretionary limits. But the department's regional offices found that many exporters were making insufficient use of their discretion by seeking credit approvals from the ECGD where they need not do so.

This was bound to cause delays, particularly if it overloaded the ECGD credit limit service.

The ECGD, which insures more than half of Britain's exports against the failure of overseas buyers to pay for them, has been strongly criticized recently by exporters. It was revealed that the value of export insured by the ECGD is running at an annual rate of about £12,000m, compared with £8,391m for 1975-76.

As a result "credit limit" case-work facing the department's underwriters amounted to more than 3,000 submissions a week.

French steelmakers set 1980 investment targets

Paris, May 2.—France's steel industry will invest 24,300m francs in the next four years to finance investments, reimburse loans and increase its working capital, according to M Jacques Ferry, president of the Steel Industry Federation.

Addressing management and union officials at the weekend, M Ferry gave the following breakdown of the industry's financial requirements up to 1980: 8,800m francs of capital outlay to modernize existing plants, 9,100m to reimburse loans, 4,800m to increase company working capital, and 1,600m francs for advances and participations.

For 1977 alone the industry will have to invest 4,000m and 4,500m francs, he said.

M Ferry expects domestic demand to increase gradually, with a durable improvement in foreign trade, the expected rise in demand and the anti-crisis measures adopted by the EEC Commission should result in a rise of about 40 per cent in steel prices by 1980.

As a result of expected improved prospects and modernization, French steelmakers are likely to show combined profits of about 1,600m francs next year, after a deficit of 2,350m francs last year.

Boots seeks overseas expansion

By Patricia Tisdall

Boots, which has 1,248 chemist's shops in the United Kingdom and an international wholesale distribution network, is seeking to expand its retail interests abroad.

The company, which acquired a section of a French cosmetic group last June, is actively looking for two new store sites in Paris. It is also seeking opportunities to expand into North America, Dr Gordon Hobday, its chairman, said.

Retail expansion by Boots in Europe has previously been hindered by regulations which forbid the sale of medicines through company-owned multiple shops. However, the products sold in group stores in the United Kingdom now extend far beyond medicines, to include cosmetics, photographic equipment and household goods. It is on the latter that it plans to base its expansion in France.

In partnership with Nouvelles Galeries, the French department store chain, Boots is already operating one store in the Rue de Passy in Paris under the Sephora name. Owned by Beauté Hygiène et Soins (Bhys) company, in which Boots has a 70 per cent share, the store sells cosmetics, perfumery, toiletries, fashion accessories and a variety of products stocked by Boots in Britain.

A spokesman for the company confirmed that it is searching for two more sites in similar areas of Paris. Dependence on the success of these further stores may be opened elsewhere in France.

Following the success in wholesale distribution of its anti-rheumatic drug in North America, marketed there under the name of the Boots company, Boots is looking for opportunities to set up its own operation. Restriction on multiple retail chemists do not apply there as in Europe.

MP again presses for more Treasury detail

By David Blake

Dr Jeremy Bray, the Labour MP who forced the Treasury to publish its forecast three times a year, is once again trying to make it give more information about the way our economy is going.

He tabled an amendment yesterday to the Finance Bill which would, if it were passed, require the Treasury to give out much greater detail than it now reveals in the rather limited forecast which it allows the general public to see.

Since the Treasury uses its model of demand to open up Treasury forecasts to the form of an amendment to the 1975 Industry Act, and it got on the Statute Book in spite of considerable government criticism.

He thinks that the Treasury has played fair with outside users who want to run the model through to test their own assumptions about the economy. But he thinks also that the

simple statements in which the Treasury produces a forecast of its own have not been in line with the philosophy he was trying to get across.

In particular, some of the very important sub-models which the Treasury uses are still not revealed to the public, though he says that they are often of considerable interest and could be published without causing any damage.

For example, he would like the public to be able to look at the Treasury's assessment of world economic prospects.

The Treasury also refuses to publish its model of demand for key industries, even though this has obvious use for businesses trying to assess their outlook for coming months.

Since the original intention of the Industry Act of 1975 and the amendment to it was said to be to help industry plan its future more effectively, he argues that the Government ought to be prepared to give out useful information.

In brief

Interest-free loans for small businesses urged

By Kenneth Owen

Interest-free loans for entrepreneurs to start their own businesses were suggested last night by Sir Monty Fison, former chief executive of British Steel Corporation, as a means to stimulate innovation and exports.

He was speaking on the eve of a four-day conference on microtechnology—the pursuit of cost-effectiveness throughout the life of plant, machinery and other assets—organised in London by the Department of Industry.

more than the company's total turnover in 1974.

Retail systems

A new company, Gamma Telecommunications Systems, has been formed to market computer systems for the discount warehouse and retail industry. The systems, known as Teloserv, have been developed by A.W. Consultants of Philadelphia and are based on Digital Equipment PDP-11 minicomputers.

The new company is owned jointly by Gamma Associates of Nottingham; A.W. Consultants of Philadelphia; and the directors and staff. Mr David Powell is managing director, and Sir Denning Pearson (formerly with Rolls-Royce and now chairman of Gamma Associates) is chairman.

Stock Exchange model

Scitex, London, is developing a model for the Stock Exchange which will enable brokers to predict the effect that the Talisman system (the Exchange's main computer development) will have on the cash flow position of their companies.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cost to society at large of Sunday opening

From Mr K. Gibson

Sir, The argument by your correspondent to change the character of the British Sunday by allowing it to become a normal shopping day reminds me of the arguments put forward by those who favoured urban motorways and high rise flats. They blithely ignored the effect on the rest of the society as a whole of their proposals. But now that the deity of "Progress" is no longer fashionable the god of the "consumer" is invoked and the inalienable right to consume whatever, whenever, and wherever one likes.

Regrettably it will be consumption at the expense of the rest of society, I fear, since there will need to be in attendance all those normally present on a normal shopping day. Police, traffic wardens, Customs and Excise officials, public transport employees and the like and so on. A public expense it will be borne by everyone. We are also being urged to hurry along the path of needless change by the shrill voice of false prophets.

Yours faithfully, K. GIBSON, Gibson's Limited, 62 Middle Street, Co. Durham, April 22.

From Mr H. McN. Henderson
Sir, Rosemary Brown's article, "Never on Sunday?" (April 20), was of some academic interest to your readers in Scotland.

Many features of the Scots way of life are erroneously attributed to John Knox. Perhaps it is to his influence that we can attribute the practice of turning an honest penny by serving the needs of the consumer public on a Sunday.

Yours faithfully, H. McN. HENDERSON, Department of Scots Law, University of Edinburgh, The Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL, April 25.

Effect of inflation on returns for the small investor

From Mr P. W. B. Mustiano

Sir, I do not know what proportion of capital investment comes from the small investor, but it is significant there must be a reason for the lack of it if one looks at the following figures.

In 1974, an endowment policy matured and I took advice on the investment of £1,500. My bank's brokers suggested £500 equity in the ordinary shares of Messrs Guinness, Peat & Co, Messrs Bowers Ltd and Consolidated Gold Fields. I took their advice.

This morning I have been completing my annual income tax return and the money

opposite dividends from United Kingdom companies and tax credits in part reads:

Name of company	Amount of dividend credit	Amount of tax credit
Guinness, Peat & Co	£33.25	£17.91
Bowers Ltd	£26.85	£15.54
Consolidated Gold Fields	£14.39	£7.70
Total	£74.49	£41.15

An income of £74.49 from an investment of £1,500 derived from savings over 20 years is the shattering result of inflation. Probably the first premium invested elsewhere would have been a better bet.

P. W. B. MUSTIANO, 4 St. Saviour's Lane, Padstow, Cornwall, April 22.

Borrowers at an advantage

From Mrs Joan Dorell

Sir, Much has been said and written recently about the rate of interest on home loans. The conspiracy has been to suggest that the borrowers are being disadvantaged when in fact the opposite is true.

The borrowers are able to purchase an asset which increases in value and they are able to obtain tax relief on the interest paid. The lenders, however, are at the present rate of inflation worse off at the end of the year. Tax is moreover deducted at source, leaving their savings 10 per cent down on the year. (They pay tax on a loss.)

I intend to remove my savings from my building society. To safeguard my savings, I must move house, become a borrower instead of a lender, and get tax relief on the interest paid.

Who would be a lender when he could be a borrower? Yours faithfully, JOAN DORELL, 14 Barber Close, London NW1 1BE, April 22, 1977.

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ICL may buy overseas minicomputer company

International Computers, following its acquisition of the international operations of Singer Business Machines, may go on to acquire an overseas minicomputer manufacturer within the next two years.

This was indicated in Scarborough last week by Mr Geoffrey Cross, ICL managing director. At a press briefing during the ICL Computer Users' Association annual convention, Mr Cross said he and his ICL colleagues were "working hard to develop our posture" at the minicomputer end of the market.

ICL was too late to start in minicomputers on its own, he said, and there was no United Kingdom minicomputer company with sufficient strength in manufacturing, maintenance and marketing to be an attractive prospect.

Asked how urgent was a minicomputer decision, he replied: "We must have a solution in two years."

Mr Cross was commenting on the recent moves into or towards minicomputer operations

Computer news

by other mainframe computer companies such as IBM, Honeywell and Univac.

A link between ICL's Datasikil software subsidiary and the National Enterprise Board's Inspec Data Systems software marketing scheme is possible, Mr Cross indicated. The NEB's 24 per cent holding in ICL meant that Datasikil was eligible to participate in Inspec, he confirmed.

"I've agreed with David Dunbar, who runs the NEB's computers and electronics division", Mr Cross said, "that we will have some discussions between Datasikil and Inspec and the NEB to see how we can meaningfully play a part, because we want to play a part; we want to get involved."

On the question of the Government's ICL preference policy in the procurement of central Government computers (under review at present), Mr Cross said that a strategic policy for the entire computer industry

in the United Kingdom should be the starting-point.

Having decided that strategic policy, the Government could then decide what part procurement should play in carrying it out.

"We have been working very actively with the Government for seven or eight months", he added, "helping them to come up with conclusions on the strategic policy for the industry."

Replying to questions at the convention, Mr Peter Ellis, ICL marketing director, said that there were 600 "bugs" (software errors) outstanding on ICL 2900-series computers at present. Such errors were coming in at the rate of about 80 a week, and were being corrected at the rate of about 100 a week.

On the 1900 series, he said, about 100 errors a week were being reported; on average, these were taking about two weeks to correct. By the standards of any computer manufacturer this did not seem an unreasonable record.

In a review of recent progress, Mr Cross told delegates that ICL's turnover outside the United Kingdom would be more than £200m this year. This was

more than the company's total turnover in 1974.

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EEC consumer prices edge up

Brussels, May 2.—Average unadjusted rises in European Economic Community consumer prices slowed a little in March from February but were up from a year earlier, according to official statistics published yesterday. The average price rise in March was 0.76 per cent in March, against an average of 0.85 per cent in February over January.

Compared with a year ago, consumer prices rose an average of 11 per cent in March.

Danish growth doubt

In its annual survey of the Danish economy, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development predicts that demand and output "are likely to remain subdued during the first half of this year, pointing to a rapid deterioration in labour market conditions". Some revival of activity may ever the Paris-based organization considers.

Coffee price tumbles

London coffee prices, which were falling all last week, yesterday plunged by £300 per tonne, to £3,177.50, for "spot" May and by £280.50 per tonne to £3,257.75 for July.

Commodities, page 22

CARIPLO DI RISPARMIO DELLE PROVINCE LOMBARDE

(Savings Bank of Lombardy) - Established 1823 - MILAN, ITALY and associated sections

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1976			
	Live	US \$	
ASSETS			
Cash in hand, liquid resources and securities	5,700,389,468.538	4,532,216,536	
Loans to customers	6,313,388,378.185	7,221,013,001	
Sundry assets	1,373,668,726.545	1,563,908,239	
Commitments, contingencies and contra accounts	9,963,959,832.078	11,078,807,808	
	21,109,706,405.446	24,321,936,584	
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH			
Savings deposits, current accounts, mortgage and other bonds outstanding	9,254,208,133.274	10,552,492,016	
Sundry liabilities and miscellaneous funds	1,584,302,877.713	1,790,211,533	
Capital funds, reserves and profits	611,914,724.421	697,381,125	
Commitments, contingencies and contra accounts	9,053,882,882.075	11,177,837,828	
	21,109,706,405.446	24,321,936,584	
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1976			
	Live	US \$	
EXPENSES AND LOSSES			
Interest paid	598,371,932.544	670,138,261	
General and personnel expenses	246,919,679.704	282,163,829	
Provisions, depreciation, losses	242,282,785.420	276,858,612	
Sundry charges	1,675,516,418.326	1,923,167,823	
Profit for the year	10,520,870,870	12,562,922	
	1,096,507,280.543	1,241,122,017	
INCOME AND PROFITS			
Interest, premium and miscellaneous earnings on liquid resources and securities	525,416,438.235	592,162,224	
Interest from mortgages	622,287,473.399	714,197,220	
Allocations used, income and sundry profits	157,753,122.844	179,222,943	
	1,096,507,280.543	1,241,122,017	

Chairman: GIORGIO DELL'AMORE

Managing Director: ALESSANDRO NEZZO

Brown Brothers Corporation Limited

Sales and profits to date are satisfactory levels, ahead of last year and trends are good. Subject to the problem of inflation, we look for more profits in 1977, says Mr E. G. Spearing, Executive Chairman.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Great Eastern House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2BN.

Significant Progress

	1976	1975	1974
Turnover	58,883	51,194	47,757
Pre-tax profit	1,903	1,685	1,166
Dividends paid and proposed	438	273	212
Earnings per share	2.04p	1.76p	1.40p



The motor component distribution and engineering Group

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lorho adds to the dividend confusion

Increasingly a nonsense is being made of the Treasury's guidelines on exemption from dividend taxation for companies with more than 100 shareholders outside the country. Hard on the heels of its refusal to grant freedom to Shell Transport and Trading, the Treasury has issued a clarifying statement on the exemption rules only to add that all cases would be treated on their merits.

Now it seems that Lorho has shaken free of the dividend shackles and opens up a whole new avenue of confusion. Clearly Lorho has been able to convince the Treasury that the bulk of its trading operations are carried out outside the United Kingdom—even though that sort of information is denied shareholders as indeed it is in the case of Shell as well—but the group has been changing shape so fast over the past couple of years that it is more than a little difficult to claim that when it has taken the likes of Brentford, Nylons, Dunford & Elliott and Suits into its account.

For perspective the United Kingdom shopping list has so far added upwards of £70m to total assets employed of nearly £400m.

What, then, will the Treasury do in a year's time if it finds Lorho, or for that matter any other group it has given freedom to, does not qualify under the old guidelines? If it brings the company back into the dividend net, that will be like bolting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

In the meantime, it is going to be even more difficult for companies to decide on the trade-off between dividend freedom and the purchase of United Kingdom assets to offset advance corporation tax problems.

JFB/Rollmakers Flushed out

It would be unfortunate if Johnson & Firth Brown's bid for British Rollmakers, coming as it does, so close after the unsuccessful offer for fellow Sheffield steelmaker, Dunford & Elliott, crossed the wire. The bid, which is under the leadership of ex-J&FBS chairman, Mr. Philip Ling, JFB had become more interested in making deals than making steel.

That is not the case. The Dunford bid was an opportunity for JFB to show its management in JFB's shoes should have shirked. The Rollmakers bid is a planned move, brought to a head because under a clause of the 1976 Companies Act, JFB had to declare its near 10 per cent holding in Rollmakers which it had held for the past two years.

Nevertheless, it is the kind of deal that critics have said JFB should have done. It is a big consumer of cash both on fixed assets and for working capital. The beauty of the Dunford deal was that Dunford was about to begin generating cash while a rights issue eased the financing.

The BRC deal is much cleaner cut, although the effects are not so dramatic. Putting the two companies together will lift at least 10 per cent of JFB's gearing, its borrowings are currently between 70 and 80 per cent of share value, and although BRC will take up a fifth of the combined equity while providing only 10 per cent of the profits, it has been a generator of cash in the past.

In any case, on the experience of JFB's acquisition of N. Greening, dilution should not be a problem for long, although the market yesterday gave its own verdict on the generosity of the price, which takes BRC out on a p/e ratio of 21, as JFB mopped up 1.65 million shares to control of more than 50 per cent.



Sir Jack Callard, chairman of British Home Stores, a big increase in the payroll bill.

Any arguments from BRC would now largely be academic while the value of the offer at 58p matches roughly what Darcy paid for its stake before it was blocked from bidding by the Monopolies Commission.

GR Dawes Cashing in

G.R. Dawes has had nowhere to go since the financial climate turned against his ambition to create an authorized bank. With the bulk of its assets in cash and in trading, the bank is large and sufficiently separate to be sold off individually without the loss of any element of group goodwill. Dawes is proposing a members' voluntary liquidation, an exercise which will weed the weed-filled jungle of liquidations.

Exotic, and for shareholders—amongst whom the Dawes family looms large with nearly 46 per cent—a most satisfactory way of cashing in and moving on to more productive investments.

On a very conservative basis, Dawes calculates that liquidation would release at least £125 cash a share, a few pence below net asset value, 15p above the market price at the close yesterday, and some 30p above the shares' trading range in recent months. Disposing of the trading companies is expected to delay liquidation until the autumn, unless the group receives a satisfactory cash bid before then.

Inland Revenue permission to treat the move as a capital rather than a revenue distribution makes the decision practical. But at the same time makes it unlikely to set any marked trend, although we have seen the Simonside investment trust and Lamont Securities follow the same route in recent months.

Taking the very conservative figure shareholders are offered an exit p/e ratio of well over 8 and they now stand enjoying the rates of return on cash deposits to sort out their own prospective yields on the deal.

Total Home profits accelerate

Britain took over where the rest of the world left off as far as the world economy is concerned last year. With sterling interest at home more than doubling their contribution to trading profits, the group comfortably beat the £175m target. It was a record for the time of the Simonside takeover bid in February.

In fact, the final figure of £175m would have been nearer £183m but for the group's decision not to take in £50m or so from its own shares.

Although overseas profits which provided most of the impetus in the first half flattened out in the second six months, Total believes that the sterling advantage is still sufficient to allow the group to sell into the depressed

markets of Germany, Holland and France. Meanwhile, the United States remains particularly firm with trading profits from exports more than doubling on £44m.

Selective import controls introduced by the United Kingdom Government—while Total claims have so far made little impression on results—will undoubtedly have a significant effect this year and Total is clearly still some way short of the cyclical peak which took profits to £18.8m back in 1974.

Meanwhile, having cut borrowings just over £2m to £46.6m after last year's £10.7m, Total is well placed to make more acquisitions along the lines of the Simonside takeover with a view to providing a more cohesive integrated trading group.

This could help more the longer run but in the meanwhile Total is still riding a powerful upward wave. It will be helped by a bold and rewarding raw cotton purchasing policy. News that the Multi-Fibra talks in Geneva are proving encouraging for United Kingdom firms can only help the shares further after yesterday's 2p climb to 42p. And at that level a yield of just under 9 per cent and p/e ratio of just over 7 is not particularly demanding given that profits this year could comfortably exceed £22m.

Final: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £77m
Sales £325m (£255m)
Pre-tax profits £17.5m (£9.1m)
Earnings per share 5.9p (3.4p)
Dividend gross 3.75p (3.41p)

British Home Stores Into lower gear

British Home Stores' profits, at £25.5m, were well up to stock market expectations, but the results only serve to confirm how much the company's growth has slowed into lower gear, at least relative to the likes of Mothercare and Marks & Spencer. Allowing for an increase in selling space of about 4 per cent and price inflation of 10-12 per cent, volume growth per square foot has shown virtually no change.

Over a quarter of the 16.4 per cent profit increase, in any case, came from lower interest rate payments, which were rather a reflection of the 1975 rights issue process than of any significant underlying change in borrowing.

Admittedly BHS faced a difficult year. Some of the stores had run into the year before in the shape of the 82p award (adding 23 per cent to the payroll bill), and despite both this and the difficult trading climate it has managed to peg margins and maintain its momentum in the second half.

The financial controls and value-for-money policy appear to have come through unscathed. But until volume returns to the retail sector as a whole it is hard to see why a premium rating for BHS. It continues to suffer the drawbacks of a high proportion of imported goods within its sales mix and a lack of any interests outside the United Kingdom.

In contrast to M & S, which is at last seeing the benefits of its overseas efforts, BHS growth in profits this year seems likely again to be pegged to a combination of interest rate increases and inflation. The prospect is thus of another performance much like last year. A p/e ratio of 16.4 at 1976, however, appears to be discounting something rather more ambitious. The yield is 4.4 per cent.

Final: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £201m
Sales £244m (£211m)
Pre-tax profits £25.5m (£21.9m)
Earnings per share 11.9p (11.0p)
Dividend gross 8.65p (7.85p)

Adrienne Gleeson discusses the implications of the fall in interest rates

Banks: the golden days are over

I went recently to listen to Lord Armstrong, the chairman of Midland Bank, speaking at St Mary le Bow on the subject of banking and ethics. In passing he made the point that "money doesn't make money", that banks have to employ the deposits placed with them in order to earn the return with which they pay their depositors interest.

It was this point, rather than the moral intricacies of the bank's position in lending to the South African or other authoritarian regimes which occupied the attention of his audience as it left the church. "It made me laugh, him saying that," one old lady said, speaking for many. "Of course money makes money. You put your money in the bank and they give you interest on it. That's all."

Falling income, high costs

But if that suggests a fine confusion among the British public on the functions and procedures of the British clearing banks, the recent fall in interest rates and the consequences thereof raise the question whether that confusion extends to the clearing banks themselves.

In the wake of a year of record earnings the clearing banks are facing a period of reduced profitability, reflecting the convergence of declining income and high fixed costs. The banks themselves are worried

about the trend, while some outside observers are distinctly alarmed, predicting that another point or so reduction in base rates would plunge domestic banking operations into loss.

At present any such fall looks distinctly unlikely. Indeed with inflation in Britain still running at double the rate ruling among its industrial competitors, and with interest rates starting to rise already (the Federal Funds Rate was set at eight and a half per cent last week), there is not room for a fall of such magnitude without endangering the pound. And it is to the defence of the pound that the British Government appears to have committed itself in the fight against inflation.

In the longer term, however, the banks' inability to make money on their domestic operations, should base rates settle at much below 8 per cent (the theoretical "cost" of current account money—the costs of transmission offset by the commission earned on outstanding current account balances—set by National Westminster at about 7 per cent, though it obviously fluctuates according to the volume of money held in current accounts) raises interesting alternatives for the British economy—either a perpetuation of high interest rates or the prospect of one or more clearing banks going under. They would be going under, too, not for any new-fashioned folly of undisciplined lending, but for the good, or at any rate old-fashioned, reason that income simply will not cover costs.

As yet, of course, the banks

have room for manoeuvre on both scores. With the rate paid on seven-day branch deposits at present interest rate levels, down to 4 per cent, as against a base rate of 8½ per cent, there is not much they can do on pure political grounds to widen the margin between the two further. They can, however, introduce higher charges for the services which they offer, either by putting up, for example, the cost of cheques, or by raising the limits on current account holdings at which free banking becomes operable.

'Lame duck' customers

Last year's moves in this direction did have an effect on profits in each bank, though to an unquantified extent; and partly because the introduction of higher charges has to be negotiated with corporate customers, the full benefits have yet to work through.

The banks can, in addition, expect more from their lame duck British customers if interest rates continue to decline: in particular, they might be able to abandon the practice of "rolling up" interest for property companies caught out in the 1974 crash. The lifetime commitment might be expected to become less onerous.

By 1979, the bad debt provisions which the banks make on an averaging formula should also be beginning to decline, as the experiences of 1974 work out of the system.

But recovery from the financial crisis of the middle years of this decade will provide one-off benefits for the banks: it is not going to tide them through a period of low interest rates in the 1980s.

Foreign business, on which the banks have been placing increasing emphasis as the pound declined to the benefit of overseas profits, and as the demand for their services at home continued sluggish, might provide some form of lifeline, but going after foreign business at the moment is a cut-throat occupation, with fierce competition in particular from the American banks who have already fought their way into overseas markets to try to counteract the sluggish growth of their own profits at home.

So there will have to be attempts to cut costs as well. In fact, some banks have begun the process already, with Midland, for example, experimenting in streamlining its branch network and all the clearers pushing their ancillary services hard—though without much apparent success—in an attempt to reduce their unit costs.

The problem, of course, is that wages and salaries form the largest part of expenses and there is not much the banks can do to reduce them without recourse to extensive mechanization. This is something that they are convinced their customers do not want, that would also involve redundancies by which their labour resources would probably be ruined.

So for the moment the efforts in this direction are more of an exercise in containing rising costs than any attempt to provide a radical

solution to the situation. But a radical solution is what the situation appears to demand. At present the banks provide a home for three kinds of money—that held on current account (about 40 per cent of all deposits and subject to a rapid turnover), that provided by the wholesale market (from sources such as institutions, money brokers and other banks—at the moment this provides about 20 per cent of deposits) and that held on deposit account, which is in effect small savings.

When interest rates are low the banks cannot afford to provide a highly subsidized service to their current account holders. Such a service is economically justifiable only in the context of high interest rates which provide the banks with a high "endowment" benefit on the "free" current account balances.

American model

So this is really the moment at which the banks should be asking themselves whether it is time to separate their functions on the lines of the American model, using the branch network principally to provide facilities for depositors who can, like those who put their money with the building societies, be offered an attractive rate on money lent on a medium to long-term basis, and streamlining the services offered to current account holders to trim costs to the returns available on short-term funds.

Eric Wigham

Would the TUC respond to surgery?

Though kept short of funds by member unions and closely watched last it exceeded its restricted powers, the TUC is engaged in a serious attempt to fit itself for the enormous national responsibilities it has assumed in the past few years.

The starting point was a resolution from the Electrical Power Engineers' Association at the 1975 congress which called on the general council to undertake a full-scale review of its own structure, its method of working, the sufficiency of its supporting staff and the use of its consultation on policy with the union movement.

Last year the general council sought the views of member unions and last week it summarized the replies in a report to a conference of chief union officers, adding its own observations. In the light of the discussions, it will make formal recommendations to the congress in September.

The council's report was necessarily scrappy, grouping many various suggestions and summarizing the arguments for and against each one. The chief officers seemed satisfied with its approach and had not enough to say to take up the full day allotted to the meeting.

The impression left was that, as after many of the previous TUC exercises in self-analysis, there will only be some patching up in areas which will not impair the domination of the big unions. Yet it seems to me that it would be possible to select proposals from the document which, if drawn together, would transform the TUC structure, at the same time making it more responsive to the views of members and enabling the rank and file to have a better understanding of what the TUC is doing.

The key is to be found in the industry committees. These were set up as a result of the

last TUC structure review in 1970 and there are now nine of them. Composed of representatives of unions concerned and of the general council, these committees, to quote the general council, "provide a forum in which unions in particular industries or sectors can develop common policies".

So far 68 of the 114 TUC unions participate in these committees, some in more than one. Most said that they found them extremely useful and they have evidently met a need. A number of suggestions were made for new ones.

The council commented that an extension of the work of these committees could be a productive way for the TUC to use its limited resources. It also said that it would welcome more formal relationships with the work of industry bodies, such as those in the Civil Service, the Post Office and engineering.

But these committees, while bringing together the top officials of unions with members in an industry, have no direct relationship with the membership. At present the industry committees are divided into 13 trade groups according to the industries in which they are strongest. Unions in each group nominate candidates for a fixed number of places on the council and selection is by a vote of the whole congress.

The trade groups have no existence except as part of the election procedure. They do not meet to discuss the problems of the industry in which they are included and in some cases many of their members are in different trades.

For example, the Transport and General Workers' Union is in the trade group for "transport other than the railways", while it is the main organization for road and port

transport, the bulk of its members are scattered elsewhere. The General and Municipal Workers' Union has a group to itself, unrelated to any trade. The draughtsmen's section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is in a different group from the other three unions in the group.

Two thirds of the groups comprise unions largely confined to one industry or sector, but usually not including the general, craft and white collar unions with membership in many industries. There are two rag-bag groups of small organizations, one including the distributive workers and the other a variety of white collar bodies.

These unsystematic arrangements arise from pragmatic solutions to problems which have occurred from time to time. The general council's main objections to the plan to elect the council through industry committees arise from its complexity and the practical problems, which are undoubtedly considerable. Further committees would have to be created and there would still have to be one or two rag-bags.

General, craft and white collar unions would be entitled to nominate candidates in an industry in which they had members, and it might be necessary to adopt some device to prevent over or under-representation, for instance to stop white collar unions in private industry from being squeezed out.

Transport and General could

nominate candidates in industries like engineering and construction, but on the other hand would be less dominating in transport. Transport and General representatives from different industries might have more to contribute than the present representation, which consists of the general secretary and a few others who watch to see when he puts up his hand.

It would all be difficult, but worthwhile. If a direct up-and-down relationship were established between the rank and file and their members on the council, the council could be chosen by votes at the industrial conferences or even by ballot of the members.

Maybe such arrangements would eventually lead to a more democratic congress voting system. During the present discussions neither the general council nor any of the unions appears to have mentioned the block vote.

Unions cast the whole vote of their membership on one side or the other of the issues before congress even though opinions may be fairly evenly divided. As mergers have raised the size of the big unions have increasingly dominated congress decisions.

Transport and General have one sixth of the total vote, the three biggest unions more than one third. If votes were cast separately on behalf of their members in different industries, there might be truer reflection of worker attitudes.

KODE

Results for the year ended 31st December 1976

	1976	1975
£	£	£
Group Turnover	4,470,000	2,212,000
Profit before Taxation	603,000	284,000
Profit after Taxation	402,000	151,000
Dividends	48,000	43,000
Earnings per Share	12.4p	4.7p

Highlights from the Statement to Shareholders by Chairman, Mr. W. D. Tudor—

"I am pleased to report excellent results for the year ended 31st December 1976, reflecting the success of our declared intention to invest in organic growth and acquisition."

Pre-tax profits rose to £603,377 compared with £284,492 for 1975, and include £266,569 earned during the whole of 1976 by Moore Reed and Company Limited, acquired during the year in accordance with our stated policy.

An interim dividend of 0.7038 pence per share was declared on the half year results and the Board recommends a final dividend for the year of 0.7647 pence per share. These dividends, with the associated tax credits, are equivalent to 9.04%, and are the maximum payable under current legislation.

The demand for the Group's products remains strong, orders being well up on a comparable basis with the same period last year. I am confident that there are excellent prospects for the Group to build upon the foundations already laid. 99

Kode International Limited

21 CORK STREET, LONDON W1X 1HB

Manufacturers of data processing equipment and components for industrial and military applications

Business Diary: First of the small spenders

It would be interesting to be a fly on the wall at the meetings in Whitehall this week as Tony Hubert and Paul Assam head a delegation from the European Association of National Productivity Centres (EANPC) visiting government departments.

Hubert is the British secretary-general and Assam president of the Brussels-based association. Assam is director of the Danish Trade Fund and thus head of his country's productivity council.

They and delegates from the productivity associations of Belgium, West Germany, the Irish Republic, Hungary and Turkey arrive in London today for their two days of visits to the Departments of Industry and Employment and to NEDO. They will be accompanied by David Bailey, the new chief executive of the British Productivity Council.

The British council was the first of the national productivity centres, but is the only one out of 18 active national centres to receive no government help.

Government backing varies from all here to 10 per cent in Turkey and Italy and to 100 per cent in Canada, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and the United States.

Hubert, Assam or their colleagues might be tempted to point out that West Germany spends £250m a year on productivity research and has 75 per cent government backing, France £14m, and the United States £1.4m.

They might then ask why the United Kingdom, whose productivity is one of the lowest in the world, spends a mere £60,000 a

privately raised, which is more than twice as much as Luxembourg or Greece.

Print out

Yesterday was the first day of work in a new job for Sam Wright, until recently director of personnel and industrial relations with the printers Purnell & Sons.

He started yesterday as the founder director of the Industrial Relations Training Resource Centre (IRTRC), an agency of the government's Manpower Services Commission, which, however, will operate from the non-government Ashland Management Training College.

The idea, Wright said, was to be "slightly to one side of the Civil Service" and yet to be in a place with good management training experience and resources.

Wright and his chairman, Victor Paige, MSC member and executive vice-chairman at the National Freight Corporation, plan to extend and promote industrial relations training.

Among the priorities, apart from hiring their own staff, is to compile a register of industrial relations research.

Wright and Paige mean to bring together "all those who provide training in industrial relations and all those who say they need it." Along the way IRTRC hopes to change the minds of some organizations which say they don't need any more, thank you.

Mr. Paige is sponsoring a two-year research programme of his own, which will result in a further publication from the first year of the Labour

and Lord McCarthy. He is to investigate the training needs of middle managers in selected companies, to devise and introduce the courses and then report on the results.

Ambitions

Claude Hanks-Drielsma left the boardroom of merchant bankers Robert Fleming a year ago to become adviser to stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers. The brokers were at that time thinking of expanding their corporate finance team and Hanks-Drielsma was seen as the man to handle the expansion.

Twelve months on, and a further dismal year for the brokerage community later, Capel-Cure partner Somerset Gibbs admits that "ambitions and realities have changed" and that Hanks-Drielsma's job there has now come to an end.

Still only 28, and yet with a City background taking him from Manufacturers Hanover Trust to the international corporate finance side of Flemings and on to the bank's board by the age of 25, South African born Hanks-Drielsma has now picked up the job of investment banking manager of the recently formed European Arab Bank.

An offshoot of the EBIC group of international banks, which includes Britain's Midland Bank, European Arab Bank will obviously be operating with an eye to the Middle East. Hanks-Drielsma's main area of specialization.

Whatever the results of his return to the banking fold, the apparently irresistible rise of our hero provides at least one pointer for similarly ambitious



Claude Hanks-Drielsma

financiers. To lessen the risk of hiding what is an admittedly impressive light under any ill-placed bushel Hanks-Drielsma does not rely upon the City grapevine to broadcast his frequent moves. It was he, and not European Arab Bank nor Capel-Cure Myers, who made yesterday's announcement of the move.

In the dock

Finjast, the world's first gas turbine-powered passenger ferry, remained at her berth in Helsinki yesterday when she should have been on a maiden voyage to and from Travemünde in northern Germany with more than 1,500 passengers on board.

Members of the Finnish Engineers' Association among the vessel's crew are on strike in sympathy with power generation workers.

Finjast is owned by Esso-Coussert, one of Finland's largest industrial groups, and managed

by its subsidiary, Finlines. Passengers are being offered refunds or alternative dates for the 600-mile voyage, which the vessel will cover eventually—in 22 hours at a speed of about 30 knots.

To boot

A Little Noddy for that most fragmented of industries, footwear, seems to be on the cards. The industry has never been keen on the idea, but there is a growing feeling that there should be something to continue the work of an industry clearing group which, after two years' work, is to present Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, with a rescue plan, and then wind up.

Normally, Little Noddies do not represent retail interests, but this might be admissible in footwear's case.

It seems unlikely that steering committee chairman George Marriott would want to chair the new body, but two names being mentioned are Monty Sumray, president of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, and Spencer Crookenden, chairman of K. Shoes.

Auction-hunters who want something different might be interested in something that goes under the hammer in Townsville, Queensland, later this month. It is Orpheus, your very own coral island in the Barrier Reef off Townsville. It comes complete with a 40ft unscrew passenger and trading vessel and a 30ft glass-bottomed boat. There's probably a catch somewhere, but we don't want to hear about it.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Scope in US but Mothercare to be quieter in Europe

By Ray Maughan

Mothercare, the infant and children's clothing and accessories group, has maintained its recent growth rate of growth with a 40 per cent pre-tax profit rise in the year to 26 March, 1977.

Spurred by big currency gains on European trading and the successful entry into the 5 to 10 year age range in the home market, Mothercare made a record £11.5m pre-tax profit and sees plenty of scope from its new United States and existing United Kingdom operations.

It is maintaining its recent stability, European operations must inevitably look much quieter. Their second-half contribution soared by 172 per cent against the comparable period of the previous year and around 60 per cent of this improvement came from exchange gains. The closure of two small loss-making outlets in West Germany during the previous year also helped. A further brake on European

progress is the difficulty in finding further acquisitions and new sites for expansion.

At home, where profits advanced by 35 per cent to £10.81m, entry into the upper age group has been a significant bonus and the board, headed by Mr Seifin Zilkha, expect further growth. Full penetration into this new market will take another 18 months.

Mothercare now has 367 United Kingdom stores and is actively seeking 250 outlets in this country. Four new stores have been added to the portfolio this year, putting a 8 per cent selling space, and the 1977/78 target is an additional 12 per cent in total.

But before Mothercare grows very much older, the US may be the chief area of potential. The 110 US stores brought from Dekon Corporation with effect from July 16 last year chipped in sales of £3.17m over the remaining 24 weeks of their financial year—to be extended by

two months this time to March. Mothercare's other overseas subsidiaries—but profits were limited to £84,000.

Mothercare is cutting its teeth in the US and the tightening of stock control procedures, rationalization and the introduction of Mothercare's brand name might mean that full profitability will not be reached for two years. But expansion is under way with 15 new US stores on stream by August this year and a further nine sites likely to be added to the list by February. The launch of the 5-10 age range will also add to the US appeal although the group is cautious of the need to learn how to walk before it runs.

The shares jumped 8p yesterday to 280p and a one-for-one scrip issue is proposed. The total dividend is raised by the launch of the 5-10 age range to 8.5p per share. The group is cautious of the need to learn how to walk before it runs.

Buoyant Dale pays more and scrip issue

By Victor Felstead

Since Dale Electric International went public in 1972 it has been records all the way and last year was no exception. On turnover 30.8 per cent up at £12.3m, pre-tax profits expanded by 24.4 per cent to a best-ever £2.13m. Shareholders are to benefit with an increase in dividend from 6.5p to 7.5p gross and a one-for-one scrip. Moreover, Mr Leonard Dale, chairman, reports that prospects remain good. The Dale product is "highly acceptable", he says, and the order book has risen to £10m.

As good as the year's results are, they do however, show some downturn in the last six months. In the first half, turnover was 60 per cent up and pre-tax profits 73 per cent greater. Last October, the board reported that the increase in profit over turnover was due to better export business and to the return on the group's capital investment programme, particularly streamlining as a result of the new Test House.

The United Kingdom market remains buoyant and Dale showed useful growth in this sector in 1976. Mr Dale declared.

W Pickles strong after 98 pc rise

By Tony May

After restating the 1975 results to eliminate the effect of stock irregularities at the Bannerman subsidiary, pre-tax profits of William Pickles for 1976 are 98 per cent up at £876,000. Turnover at this Manchester-based textile group is 8.7 per cent up at £21.2m with exports sales showing an 80 per cent increase to £1.98m. This points to a rise in margins from 2.1 per cent to 4.12 per cent.

On attributable profits up from £313,000 to £509,000, the dividend is raised from 0.5p to 1p gross, while earnings a share are 1.6p compared with 1p.

Mr Harold Bucklev, chairman, says that turnover in the first three months of the current year is 23 per cent above the same 1976 period. With all

subsidiaries now achieving their budgets, he adds that current profits are also ahead of last year.

Last July, the board announced that the profits for 1975, and the record result of £936,000 before tax for 1974, had been over-stated by a total of about £200,000 because "certain stocks had been deliberately over-valued" by an employee who had left the company.

In his interim statement in October, the chairman was able to report a rise in sales for the six months to June 30 and a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits of £450,000 compared with the over-stated results for 1975. He was confident that the policy changes and rationalization which was being introduced would boost the group when the economy picked up.

Pearl hits at nationalization

In his annual report, Mr P. L. Gurner, chairman of Pearl Assurance, refers to the fact that the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party has proposed the nationalization of seven of the largest United Kingdom insurance companies. "Your company is not among the seven in question but we oppose this proposal just as

strongly as if it were", he tells shareholders. "We are confident of our ability to compete with any nationalized office. The total life business in force at December 31 last comprised sums assured and bonuses of £3,052m. The total for the previous year was £2,688m.

NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED

Interim Statement for the six months ended 31st March, 1977

(Audited) Year ended 30th September 1976		(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st March 1977	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st March 1976
969,517	Gross revenue	491,798	415,973
291,988	Less: Expenses and interest	146,925	144,042
	Net revenue before taxation	344,873	271,931
677,529	Less: Taxation	136,194	100,965
258,431			
419,098	Less: Interim Dividend	208,679	170,966
384,120		174,600	122,220
	NET REVENUE RETAINED	£34,079	£48,746
2.2p per share	Dividend on Ordinary Shares payable 20th May, 1977	1.0p per share	0.7p per share
for the year	Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share at end of period	119p c.d.	116p c.d.
118p c.d.	Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share assuming full conversion of Convertible Loan Stock	115p c.d.	113p c.d.

The increase in the interim dividend is for the purpose of reducing the disparity between the interim and final dividends.

*The Net Asset Value includes the full amount of the investment currency premium which at 31st March, 1977, was equivalent to 20p per Ordinary Share (31st March, 1976—24p per share, 30th September, 1976—27p per share). No provision has been made for any liability to tax on capital gains which may arise in the future on realization of investments.

Anglo-Welsh requisitioned for unitization move

By Ashley Druker

Two companies, holding a total of over 20 per cent of the equity, have requisitioned the board of Anglo-Welsh Trust (Continuation) for an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of directing the preparation of a scheme to convert A-W into a unit trust. The A-W board stresses that it has not initiated the action.

A-W adds that it is not aware of any circumstances which would cause it to change its previously held view that unitization would not be in the best interests of shareholders. This was backed by a majority of members when the same proposals were turned down in 1974.

In August 1974 A-W fended off a move by E. S. Schwab, a secondary bank which was an offshoot of Ashbourne Investments, to unitize A-W. Schwab then held 32 per cent of the A-W equity.

A statement yesterday from one of the companies seeking a unitization move, Commodity Analysis Holdings, says that as beneficial owner of 9.89 per cent of the ordinary shares, together with another shareholder holding 10.6 per cent, they have served a notice under Section 122 of the Companies Act, 1948, to convene an extraordinary meeting.

N Foods in with £3.2m bid for Fox's Biscuits

Northern Foods, the breweries, dairies, cakes and flour group, is effectively bidding £3.2m in cash for Fox's Biscuits. Fox's shares climbed 11p yesterday to 130p against the offer price of 130p per share.

The bidder already controls a large stake but the emergence of any determined resistance could be decided by the large trustee holdings. Together with boardroom interests, mostly held by Mr S. C. Oldham, Chairman, and his wife—the trustees own 33.18 per cent.

Against this Northern can range its 25 per cent holding bought some way below the current offer price from Lyons, and a parcel of 406,500 shares, tied together and sold by unnamed market sources, bringing its control up to 42.1 per cent.

Mr Nicholas Horsey, Chairman of Northern, said yesterday that although "it always made sense that Fox's would end up in Northern's hands", the offer would not have been launched just at this time had the additional 16.39 per cent not suddenly come up for sale. As it was, Northern was obliged to bid for the rest at the purchase price in compliance with Rule 34 of Takeover Code and Merger.

He declared, however, that the two businesses would fit together well with both Fox's and Northern's cake and flour subsidiaries supplying Marks & Spencer with about 40 per cent of their output.

The offer compares with net tangible assets of 120p per share in the May 22, 1976 balance sheet. First-half profits for the current year slipped slightly to £435,000 which, if repeated in the second six months, indicate earnings of around 17p per share and an exit p/e of just under 8.

Under the new disclosure requirements, Northern has revealed an 8 per cent stake in Cardiff-based bakery group, Avana, another big supplier to Marks & Spencer, and had previously unveiled a 22 per cent stake holding in Tollmache & Cobbold, the East Anglian brewer.

Brinco plans in full swing

At the annual meeting of Brinco in Montreal, Mr D. R. De Laporte, chairman, told shareholders that the company's plans for the current season's exploration programme are "in full swing".

Brinco has pressed ahead with the Kims-Michelin uranium joint venture, completing some important basic installations in the Kalpokok Bay area. With regard to asbestos, the talks which were initiated between Abitibi Asbestos Mining and Lake Asbestos (Quebec) have continued. But, marketing and financing arrangements will play an important part in arriving at a decision.

In the oil and gas sector, the progress made by Cosoka Resources has been "gratifying". During 1976, Brinco exercised its conversion rights with respect to Cosoka's series "A" debentures. This raised Brinco's equity position in Cosoka from 11 to 18 per cent. Brinco itself is 66.2 per cent owned by RTZ.

Companies to lose share quotations

The following companies have lost their share quotations: ADM business Systems, Anglian Food, Arner, Ashley Gardens Properties, Bocal Construction, C and H Hoach, CBR Jersey, Court Hotels (London), Cox Industries, Daleholme, John E. Dallas, Eldridge, Scobleford, FFE Group, Greensquare Properties, Greenwood and Bodley, Heeman Beddow, Heeman Spark, Lane Fox, Lewston International, Medco Products (Willeshall), Medco Town and Central Properties, Moore Holdings, Norbeck Cattle Hotels, Northern Developments, Rosedale Industries, Town and Central Holdings (Leeds), Venessa International, Westford Electrical and W. Wood and Son.

Hepworth Ceramic pre-tax profits grow 138% in three years.



Record results in 1976 for HCH

"In conditions which affected, one way or another, each and every division of this Company we have had little to help us in 'the market' — nevertheless, we have continued to prosper."

Mr. John F. Booth, Chairman

The Annual General Meeting will be held on May 18 in London. The following are extracts from a restated statement of the Chairman, Mr. John F. Booth.

The markets in which we operate speak for themselves: the housing, building and construction industry is, through Government policy, in a most deplorable condition. The steel industry has been in one of its cyclical troughs and has suffered a dramatic downturn on a world-wide basis. In these conditions which affected, one way or another, each and every division of this company we have had little to help us in "the market".

Nevertheless, we have continued to prosper. We have in 1976 as in the past invested in research and development for we believe that we must operate in a world-wide market and that to do this we must not only have absolutely top-class products, preferably better than any of our competitors, but also we must continuously update them and keep abreast of technological change.

In addition, we have spent a great deal of money in updating our plant in this country, in building new plant and taking every step we consider should be taken to enable us to be highly competitive.

We have for a number of years now operated in the United States of America through our subsidiary company, Dependable-Fordth Inc. and for a greater length of time had a 20% holding in the Dolomite Brick Corporation of America. Your Board decided that they should expand their American interests and accordingly we made a bid for and ultimately acquired the W. S. Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company, a well-established clay pipe company and a well-managed concern consisting of seven modern tunnel kiln operations. They have a substantial share of the market and their technology and ours is interchangeable.

DIVIDEND Your Board recommends a final dividend of 1.1283p per share which together with the interim dividend brings the year's total up to 2.1283p per share against a total of 1.9349p per share paid last year. Under existing legislation this is the maximum dividend which your Board can recommend.

CLAYWARE What little impulse was gained in the housing market in the early months of 1976 completely collapsed by mid-year and we are once again faced with a position of maximising our profitability in a bad market with all the difficulties that this entails. Against this, however, some progress is being made in the export market. In the Middle East we have had very considerable success and we have in Europe mounted a most intensive effort over the last three years so that in addition to selling from our two plants in Europe we are also exporting pipe to them from the U.K. There is no doubt about the market in Europe and there is no doubt either about the fact that we shall obtain our share of it. These export markets are extremely valuable to us and I hope will in the future offset the present decline in our U.K. business.

REFRACTORIES This company has had to operate in a market where the downturn was on a world-wide basis. With this in view I think that this division put up a most remarkable performance.

INDUSTRIAL SANDS & MINERALS Last year the Industrial Sands Division diversified into mineral processing. Tremendous efforts have been made by British Industrial Sand Limited in their minerals division and though in the overall picture there has been no great increase in their sand business in the U.K., they have through their diversification and by their efforts in selling special types of sand in Europe achieved a very worthwhile result.

PLASTICS The Plastics Division showed a significant increase in profitability in 1976 which was in itself a very significant increase on the profitability contributed by the Division in 1974. As this division operated in very much the same markets as the Clayware Division there is no doubt that the profitability has come out of efficiency and all engaged in it have put up a very good performance over the last two years.

FOUNDRY RESINS & EQUIPMENT This division has had a difficult year operating as it does in the foundry industry and

business has been very much less than buoyant. I have always expected it to do better than it has done since we acquired it. We have however run into a number of difficulties of one sort or another over which the management has had by and large little or no control. I rather think that we have put most of these behind us now.

ENGINEERING & MISCELLANEOUS These small companies when put together make a significant contribution to this Group's profitability. They are well managed and generally over the years they have performed very well and they are making a very satisfactory return on the capital employed by them in their various activities.

FUTURE I have for some years now taken the view that this Company, and indeed the country as a whole, can with a little effort and the application of a great deal of common sense from those who from time to time govern us go forward in ever-increasing strength, and the results of this would be such as to bring benefits to the people of this country beyond anything of which they have ever yet dreamt. It is our tragedy that we either fail to see the main chance or quite incredibly put obstacles in the way of those who would attempt to achieve it.

RESULTS	1976	1975
Year ended 31st December	£000's	£000's
Turnover	162,423	137,371
Profit before taxation		
Clayware	5,732	5,081
Refractories	5,029	3,486
Industrial Sands & Minerals	4,605	1,988
Plastics	1,389	936
Foundry Resins & Equipment	675	691
Engineering & Miscellaneous	816	705
	18,846	12,877
Taxation	9,809	6,543
Profit after taxation	9,037	6,334
Extraordinary item		254
	9,037	6,588
Dividends	2,133	1,917
Profit retained	6,904	4,671
Earnings per share	9.01p	6.37p
Dividends per share	2.1283p	1.9349p
Number of U.K. employees	10,700	10,900

HEPWORTH CERAMIC HOLDINGS LTD



Leaders in refractories, industrial sands and clayware and prominent in plastics, foundry resins & equipment, engineering, etc.

Copies of the Report and accounts can be obtained upon request to the Secretary, Gencfax House, Tipton Park Road, Sheffield S10 3PJ.

Lloyds Bank Base Rate

Lloyds Bank announces that, with effect from Tuesday, May 3rd, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 9% to 8½%. The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts and Savings Bank accounts will be 4%, a decrease of ½%.



Midland Bank Base Rate

Midland Bank Limited announces that with effect from Tuesday May 3rd 1977, its Base Rate is reduced by ½% to 8½% per annum.

Deposit Accounts. Interest paid on accounts held at branches and subject to 7 days notice of withdrawal is 4% per annum.



Midland Bank

Lewis's Bank Base Rate.

Lewis's Bank announces that, with effect from Tuesday, May 3rd, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 9% to 8½%.

The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts and Savings Bank accounts will be 4%, a decrease of ½%.

Weatherall Green & Smith
Chartered Surveyors Estate Agents
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

Stock Exchange Prices
Subdued session
Account Days: Dealings Began April 25, Dealings End, May 6. Contango Day, May 17
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

City Offices
Hampton & Sons
01-236 7831

BRITISH FUNDS									
Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend	Price	Change	Yield	Dividend	Price
100% Treasury	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Treasury	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Treasury	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Treasury	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Treasury	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Treasury	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Treasury	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Treasury	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Treasury	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Treasury	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Treasury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN									
100% Commonwealth	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Commonwealth	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Commonwealth	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Commonwealth	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Commonwealth	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Commonwealth	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Commonwealth	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Commonwealth	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Commonwealth	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Commonwealth	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Commonwealth	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOCAL AUTHORITIES									
100% Local Authorities	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Local Authorities	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Local Authorities	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Local Authorities	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Local Authorities	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Local Authorities	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Local Authorities	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Local Authorities	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Local Authorities	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Local Authorities	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Local Authorities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FOREIGN STOCKS									
100% Foreign Stocks	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Foreign Stocks	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Foreign Stocks	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Foreign Stocks	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Foreign Stocks	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Foreign Stocks	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Foreign Stocks	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Foreign Stocks	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Foreign Stocks	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Foreign Stocks	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Foreign Stocks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DOLLAR STOCKS									
100% Dollar Stocks	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Dollar Stocks	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Dollar Stocks	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Dollar Stocks	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Dollar Stocks	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Dollar Stocks	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Dollar Stocks	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Dollar Stocks	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Dollar Stocks	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Dollar Stocks	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Dollar Stocks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS									
100% Banks and Discounts	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Banks and Discounts	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Banks and Discounts	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Banks and Discounts	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Banks and Discounts	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Banks and Discounts	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Banks and Discounts	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Banks and Discounts	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Banks and Discounts	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Banks and Discounts	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Banks and Discounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES									
100% Breweries and Distilleries	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Breweries and Distilleries	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Breweries and Distilleries	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Breweries and Distilleries	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Breweries and Distilleries	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Breweries and Distilleries	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Breweries and Distilleries	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Breweries and Distilleries	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Breweries and Distilleries	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Breweries and Distilleries	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Breweries and Distilleries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL									
100% Commercial and Industrial	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
90% Commercial and Industrial	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00	0.00	9.00	9.00	90.00
80% Commercial and Industrial	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00	0.00	8.00	8.00	80.00
70% Commercial and Industrial	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	70.00
60% Commercial and Industrial	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	60.00
50% Commercial and Industrial	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
40% Commercial and Industrial	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	40.00
30% Commercial and Industrial	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	30.00
20% Commercial and Industrial	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
10% Commercial and Industrial	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
0% Commercial and Industrial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.				

Legal Appointments

Copyright & Commercial Lawyer

The Performing Right Society wishes to appoint a lawyer to join its senior management team. The Society administers the broadcasting and public performance rights in copyright music. Virtually all the composers, lyric writers and music publishers of the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic are members of the Society, as well as those in a number of Commonwealth territories. The Society is linked with similar organisations covering all other countries recognising copyright, so that in the United Kingdom, the Irish Republic and a number of overseas countries, it is responsible for administering the rights in virtually the world's repertoire of copyright music. It has a staff in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland of about 550 and its turnover in 1976 exceeded £21 million. It is a substantial earner of foreign exchange.

The person appointed will be responsible for providing legal advice and services over the usual range of legal work connected with the administration of the Society's functions, but will be expected to have or quickly develop a specialist expertise in the field of copyright and related rights. He/she will be involved in licence negotiation and arbitration proceedings before the Performing Right Tribunal, and the duties will involve administrative as well as legal work. He/she will have to travel abroad from time to time, and a knowledge of foreign languages, especially French and Spanish, would be an advantage.

The person appointed, who might be either a solicitor or barrister, is likely to be between 30 and 40, probably with experience from private practice as well as full-time employment in industry.

The starting salary is negotiable around £7,000-£10,000 and attractive fringe benefits are provided. Applications should be addressed to:



The Legal Adviser,
The Performing Right Society Ltd.,
29/33 Bevis Street,
London, W1P 4AA.

Durham County Magistrates' Courts Committee

Darlinton Petty Sessions Division

Clerk to the Justices

Applications are invited from Bachelors and Solicitors for appointment to this post, at a salary on the scale £7,532-£218 (p.a.) plus 12.5% per annum plus a supplement of £112 per annum. Darlington has a population of 100,000 and is close to the rural areas of North Yorkshire and Teesside.

Application forms, which must be returned by 10th May 1977, and further particulars from J. Proctor, Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee, County Hall, Durham DH1 1UL.

PROSPECTIVE PARTNER

Lincoln Inn Firm

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Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 26

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LONDON SUMMIT

Lifeline offered to rich-poor discussions

By Melvyn Westlake

A firm programme was agreed over the weekend by the Prime Minister and the other leaders of the big seven industrial nations which they hope will prevent a total collapse of the Paris negotiations between the world's rich and poor nations.

The so-called North-South dialogue is due to conclude at the end of this month with a full ministerial conference. But negotiations have been dogged by disagreements which threaten a complete breakdown.

The Downing Street summit, however, agreed on a new deal for the poor states covering trade, aid and finance. It was publicly disclosed last night because of a desire by summit leaders not to show their hands before the final bargaining session, which will start in Paris on May 10 and June 1. In spite of continuing West German reservations, it has now been accepted in principle by all the summit participants to set up a new fund to stabilize world commodity prices.

The Third World nations have been pressing for such a fund to eliminate fluctuations in their earnings from commodity production. In addition, the summit countries have also agreed to pay \$1,000m (£588m) of extra aid on the table to help the very poorest states of Asia and Africa to meet their international debts.

Agreement to enforce bribery ban

Continued from page 1

Later last night, a storage appendix to the declaration was issued, setting out the background to the various decisions taken.

At a press conference, Herr Schmidt summed up the summit by saying that "the whole thing was thoroughly worthwhile". It had been a "million miles" because, in contrast to the depression of the 1930s, there was now cooperation between the Federal Republic and the United States as "very good friends".

He described the relations between the Federal Republic and the United States as "very good friends".

President sees Mrs Thatcher

President Carter took the opportunity on Sunday to see Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, during his brief weekend. The meeting was a brief one, lasting only half an hour on Saturday.

Mr Carter, who is in London for a brief visit, said: "As soon as possible, I hope."

How goal of controlled economic growth will be achieved

Following is the text of an appendix to the Downing Street declaration.

World economic prospects

Since 1975 the world economic situation has been characterized by a gradual recovery, however, still marked in all of our countries. Our most urgent task is to create jobs and to reduce inflation. It is not a remedy to unemployment but one of its major causes. Progress in the battle against inflation has been uneven. The need for adjustment between surplus and deficit countries remains large. The world has not yet fully adjusted to the depressive effects of the 1974 oil price rise.

We commit our governments to targets for growth and stability, which vary from country to country but which, taken as a whole, provide a basis for sustained non-inflationary growth worldwide.

Some of our countries have adopted a target for growth of 3.5% in 1977. The governments of these countries will keep their policies under review, and common objectives will be pursued, if needed, to achieve their stated target rates, and to contribute to the adjustment of payments imbalances. Others are pursuing stabilization policies designed to provide a basis for sustained growth without increasing inflationary expectations. The governments of these countries will continue to pursue those goals.

These two sets of policies are complementary. Those of the first group of countries should help to create an environment conducive to expansion in the other without adding to inflation. Only if growth rates can be maintained in the first group and increased in the second, and inflation reduced successfully in both, can unemployment be reduced.

We are particularly concerned about the problem of unemployment among young people. Therefore we shall promote the training of young people in order to build a skilled and flexible labour force so that they can be ready to take advantage of the changes in economic activity as it develops. All of our governments, individually or collectively, are taking appropriate measures to this end, and we shall continue to do so as far as possible from each other and agree to exchange experiences and ideas.

Our domestic economic policies will also strengthen world economic growth but also contribute to success in four other main economic fields: (i) we shall work towards a balance of payments which is not in deficit; (ii) we shall work towards a balance of trade, energy and North-South relations; (iii) progress in these fields will in turn contribute to world economic recovery; (iv) we shall work towards a balance of payments which is not in deficit.

For some years to come, the international situation will be a group of

Creation of more jobs while reducing inflation is seen as most urgent task
Declaration of seven nations on economic aims

Following is the text of a declaration issued last night at the end of the two-day summit meeting of the seven leading non-communist industrial nations:

In two days of intensive discussion at Downing Street, we have agreed on how we can best help to promote the well-being of both of our own countries and of others. The world economy has to be seen as a whole—it involves not only cooperation among national governments, but also strengthening appropriate international organizations. We were reinforced in our conviction of the importance of all the nations before us, as well as our own interdependence. We are determined to respond collectively to the challenges of the future.

Our most urgent task is to create more jobs while continuing to reduce inflation. Inflation does not reduce unemployment. On the contrary, it is one of its major causes. We are particularly concerned about the problem of unemployment among young people. We have agreed that there will be an exchange of experience and ideas on providing the young with job opportunities.

We commit our governments to sustained economic growth targets or to stabilization policies which, taken as a whole, should provide a basis for sustained non-inflationary growth in our own countries and worldwide and for reduction of imbalances in international payments.

Improved financing facilities are needed. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) must play a prominent role. We commit ourselves to seek additional resources for the IMF and support the linkage of its lending practices to the adoption of appropriate stabilization policies.

We will provide strong political leadership to expand opportunities for trade to strengthen the open international trading system, which will increase job opportunities. We reject protectionism: it would foster unemployment, increase inflation and undermine the welfare of our peoples. We will give a new impetus to the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Our objective is to make substantive progress in key areas in 1977. In this field, structural changes in the world economy must be taken into consideration.

We will further conserve energy and increase and diversify energy production, so that we reduce our dependence on oil. We agree on the need to increase nuclear energy to help meet the world's energy requirements. We commit ourselves to do this while reducing the risks of nuclear proliferation. We are launching an urgent study to determine how best to fulfil these purposes.

The world economy can only grow on a sustained and equitable basis if developing countries share in that growth. We are agreed to do all in our power to achieve a successful conclusion of the CEEC [the North-South dialogue with the Third World] and we commit ourselves to a continued constructive dialogue with

developing countries. We aim to increase the flow of aid and other real resources to these countries. We invite the Comcon countries to do the same.

We support multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, whose general resources should be increased sufficiently to permit its lending to rise in real terms. We stress the importance of secure private investments to foster world economic progress.

To carry out these tasks we need the assistance and cooperation of others. We will seek that cooperation in appropriate international institutions, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). Those among us whose countries are members of the European Economic Community intend to make their efforts within its framework.

In our discussions we have reached substantial agreement. Our firm purpose is now to put that agreement into effect. We shall review progress on all the measures we have discussed here at Downing Street in order to maintain the momentum of recovery.

The message of the Downing Street summit is thus one of confidence in our societies and the proven democratic principles that give them vitality.

That we are undertaking the measures needed to overcome problems and achieve a more prosperous future.—Reuter.

Personal service: Mr Healey, Mr Carter and Herr Schmidt at the summit.

Schmidt-Carter differences settled amicably

By Roger Bernhard

"They got along awfully well," Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said after the President and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, had met on Saturday morning at the American Embassy residence.

"They are both sharp, quick and to the point. I think they have a healthy respect for each other," he said.

It was precisely those shared qualities, Brzezinski observed, which could have exacerbated rather than reduced their mutual wariness.

In fact they had already established a good relationship at the previous evening's dinner. No one in the room, he stressed, crossed one of the lines over which the friction between them

has arisen: the export of nuclear technology, especially West Germany's huge nuclear deal with Brazil.

Herr Schmidt seems to have left the embassy residence with a feeling that he had sorted out the points on which he disagreed with the President and established a working relationship.

Mr Brzezinski commented afterwards that there was no "fundamental friction" on the nuclear issue. The two men intended to collaborate very closely. There was an understanding of the problems of the Brazilian deal.

The other issue on which President and Chancellor disagreed was human rights. Mr Carter repeated that he felt obliged to take a position on

which many Americans had very strong feelings.

Herr Schmidt explained that the position of West Germany was inevitably difficult, since they faced the difficult situation of having to deal with the East, including the Soviet Union. The policy of discreet negotiations has had some success already (about 50,000 German speakers have migrated to the Federal Republic in the last few years).

The Chancellor also said that President Carter's denunciations might torpedo in advance this summer's follow-up conference in Belgrade on implementation of the Helsinki agreement of 1975. "The Russians had already made it clear they did not intend to go there to take a position on

the open international trading system. Achievement of these goals is central to world economic prosperity and the effective resolution of economic problems faced by both developed and developing countries throughout the world.

Policies on protectionism foster unemployment, increase inflation and undermine the welfare of our peoples. We are therefore agreed on the need to maintain our political commitment to an open and non-protectionist world trading system. We will seek both national and international measures to promote solutions that create new jobs and consumer benefits through expanded trade and to avoid approaches which restrict trade.

The Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations must be pursued vigorously. The continuing economic difficulties make it even more essential to achieve the objectives of the Tokyo declaration and to agree to the maximum benefit of all. Toward this end, we agree to pursue a series of sensitive progress in such key areas as:

(i) A tariff reduction plan of broadest possible application designed to achieve a substantial cut and harmonization and in certain cases the elimination of tariffs.

(ii) Codes, agreements and other measures that will facilitate a significant reduction of non-tariff barriers to trade and the avoidance of trade barriers in the future and that will take into account the structural changes which have taken place in the world economy.

(iii) Measures to ensure that the approach to agriculture that will achieve increased expansion and stabilization of trade, and greater assurance of world food supplies.

Such progress should not remove the right of individual countries under existing international agreements to avoid significant market disruption.

While seeking to conclude comprehensive and balanced agreements on the basis of reciprocity among all industrial countries are determined, in accordance with the aims of the Tokyo declaration, to ensure that the agreements provide special benefits to developing countries.

We welcome the action taken by governments to reduce counterproductive competition in export credit and propose that substantial further efforts be made this year to improve and extend the present consensus in this area.

We consider that irregular practices and improper conduct should be eliminated from international trade, business and commerce, and we welcome the work being done toward international agreements prohibiting such practices.

Energy. We welcome the measures taken by a number of governments to

increase energy conservation. The increased demand for energy and the need to conserve it at a rate which places excessive pressure on the world's depleting hydrocarbon resources. We agree therefore to take the most urgent measures possible to strengthen our efforts still further.

We are committed to national and joint efforts to link energy demand and to increase and diversify supplies. There will need to be greater exchanges of technology and joint research and development aimed at more efficient energy use, improved recovery and use of coal and other conventional resources, and the development of new energy sources.

Increasing reliance will have to be placed on nuclear energy to satisfy growing energy requirements and to help diversify sources of energy. This should be done with the utmost precaution with respect to the generation and dissemination of material that can be used for nuclear weapons. We are also agreed that, in order to be effective, non-proliferation policies should be as far as possible acceptable to both industrial and developing countries alike. To this end we are undertaking a preliminary analysis, to be completed within two months, of the best means of advancing these objectives, including the study of a preliminary reference for international fuel cycle evaluation.

The oil-importing countries have special problems both in securing and in paying for the energy supplies needed to sustain their economic development programmes. We shall continue to help in expanding their domestic energy production and to this end we hope the World Bank, as its resources grow, will give special emphasis to projects that serve this purpose.

Mr Jenkins feels day well spent

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, whose role in the conference has been restricted to the second day, said afterwards: "It is always slightly difficult being a half member of a club."

He preferred either to be a full member, or not to be there at all.

It had not been a personal question, however. A majority of those taking part had wanted the Community to be represented and the five member states not taking part had struck a great importance to his being there.

The actual decision had been rather flimsy, but it had been worth attending. He hoped the position would be cleared up for the future.

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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Dissident released in widespread Romanian amnesty

From Dossa Trevisan

Bucharest, May 8. The Romanian dissident writer, who was arrested five weeks ago when the Romanian authorities moved against human rights activists, was released from prison under a general amnesty to mark the hundredth anniversary of Romanian independence.

The amnesty affects 28,500 people. Those serving terms of up to three years will be freed, others will have their sentences reduced.

The Romanian authorities claim that there are no political prisoners in the country. But, the arrest of Mr Goma and the detention for questioning of some of the human rights activists last month, was a warning that the Government intended to deal harshly with political opposition.

The decision to release Mr Goma suggests that this was intended as a gesture. Mr Goma visited a friend, also a writer, but refused to talk to foreign journalists.

His release does confirm

again that the Romanians wish to treat the problem of dissidence differently from the Czechoslovak or the Soviet authorities while keeping repression in reserve.

Having, for a while, tolerated the activities of Mr Goma and other human rights campaigners, the authorities last month arrested a number of dissidents. Obviously, Mr Goma's movement was expanding and the authorities wanted to discourage others from following suit.

The arrests were accompanied by a campaign against the West in Romanian newspapers and by propaganda against emigration. President Ceausescu strongly condemned emigration in a recent speech and he accused Western newspapers of inciting Romanians to leave their country.

The Romanians are concerned that the human rights campaign might destroy detente. Now that they have demonstrated their determination not to allow the matter to get out of control, they are clearly ready to show more flexibility.

Amnesty fears execution of Cambodian repatriates

Fears were expressed yesterday that 26 Cambodians forcibly repatriated by Thailand might have been executed.

Amnesty International said in London that there had been no response by the Cambodian Government to appeals and inquiries to establish contact with the group.

In February the organization appealed to President Khieu Samphan of Cambodia to ascertain the fate of the 26 Cambodians forcibly repatriated by Thailand last November and reported to have been executed.

Amnesty has also appealed to the Prime Minister of Thailand urging that refugees should not be forcibly repatriated if they might face reprisals.

Amnesty said in a statement yesterday that refugees had reported that officials of the

former administration in Cambodia and other people had disappeared and that in some areas relatives of those considered as "enemies" or of those who have fled the country, had been maltreated or executed.

Hamburg: Mr Teng Sary, the Cambodian Foreign Minister, in an interview published by Der Spiegel today, denied reports that hundreds of thousands of people had been executed in his country.

He also said that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian leader, was alive.

Asked about the reports he said: "These people are mad. We only condemned the worst criminals. . . Why should we have killed all these? We need a tremendous amount of labourers to rebuild the country."—Reuter.

Mr Bukovsky poses choice on rights

By Craig Seton

The West should decide whether it wants to maintain good relations with the Soviet Union or fight against abuses of human rights in communist countries, Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, a leading Soviet dissident, told a rally in London yesterday.

He said political dissidents could be released only if

mass protests were held in the West.

Mr Bukovsky, who was expelled from the Soviet Union last year after 15 months in a prison psychiatric hospital, spoke at a rally organized by the Campaign Against Psychic Abuse (CAPA), formed two years ago to investigate political abuses of psychiatry.

A delegation from CAPA left the rally with a letter for President Carter at 10 Downing Street urging him to have the plight of Soviet dissidents raised at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Belgrade this June.

The rally, which was attended by more than 250 people, also demanded the release of other Soviet dissidents, including Dr Semyon Gluzman, a psychiatrist held for publicizing the abuses of psychiatry.

Portuguese riot over bullfighters' arrest

Lisbon, May 8.—Violence flared in Vila Franca de Xira last night after the arrest of two bullfighters who had defied the ban on killing bulls in the arena, the police said.

Demonstrators protesting at the arrests clashed with riot police. Three people were reported for slight injuries in a hospital.

There is a growing clamour for allowing bulls to be killed in the ring, a practice which has been banned since 1799, except for a short trial period in the 1920s. The 5,000 spectators cheered wildly when matadors killed six bulls last night.

Two of the matadors, José Julio and Rayito, a Venezuelan, were arrested and taken to the civil governor's headquarters in Lisbon early today to await a court appearance tomorrow.

Police, using riot shields and rubber clubs, had detained them after a struggle with jubilant aficionados some of whom were carrying the bullfighters on their shoulders through the town.

A third matador, appearing on the same bill, Antonio de Portugal, escaped arrest by leaving Vila Franca before the police could find him.

If José Julio and Rayito are convicted, most people expect them to pay only a token fine.

The bull in Portugal is killed outside the ring after the fight or slaughtered in an abattoir.—Reuter and AP.

VAT budget plan for EEC threatened by Danes

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, May 8. The EEC's hopes of putting its budget on a self-financing footing from the beginning of next year could be dashed unless there is agreement soon on a harmonized list of items on which to levy value-added tax (VAT).

Such a list has already been agreed in principle. But the Danish Government is refusing to give the final go-ahead until it has received an assurance

that the special subsidies and taxes which sustain the artificial "green" currency rates used in EEC farm trade will eventually be phased out.

The British have given a warning that unless the Danes lift their reserve by mid-May the clauses relevant to the introduction of a common base for VAT assessment will have to be amended from the current Finance Bill.

This would mean that implementation of the VAT directive would be postponed for a year.

Issue of mining vital to law of the sea

By Marcel Berlins

Unless substantial progress is made on the issue of deep sea mining, the chances of reaching agreement in principle on mining at the talks, which begin again in New York on May 23, at 50-50.

The elements of an agreement had emerged, he said, at recent discussions in which 85 of the 150 or so countries involved in the full conference had taken part.

Mr Richardson is President Carter's special representative on the law of the sea, a full-time post. He estimates the chances of reaching agreement in principle on mining at the talks, which begin again in New York on May 23, at 50-50.

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War crimes trial starts today

The Hague, May 8.—The trial opens in Amsterdam tomorrow of Pieter Menten, aged 78, the art collector and retired industrial tycoon on charges of crimes against humanity, involving the execution of several hundred villagers, mainly Jewish, in the Ukraine during the Second World War.

Witnesses have arrived from Israel, the United States, West Germany and Poland. Russian witnesses vital to the prosecution case, however, will not be allowed to come to Holland before autumn at the earliest.

Gloomy view in Soviet press

Moscow, May 8.—The Soviet press has depicted the London economic summit conference as an ill-starred attempt by the capitalist powers to extricate themselves from a deepening crisis.

Frankly avoided direct comment in a report from London, but quoted British newspaper opinion as being sceptical.

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Gerald Ede

A prime investment property in one of the City's main banking positions occupied by Mullens & Co., Credito Italiano and Bank of California. The freehold is offered for sale by tender, 26th May 1977, unless sold privately, subject to a long lease at the very low ground rent of £52,500 per annum with reviews.

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Lord Chalfont

The double standard of 'human rights'

At the risk of outraging Private Eye and doing irreparable damage to the blood pressure of the assembled forces of the fascist left, I have to report that I have just returned from another visit to Iran.

While I was there, although you would have to search the press of the western world with a powerful microscope to detect any mention of it, a delegation from the International Red Cross was also there, inspecting Iranian prisons at the express invitation of the Shah.

They operated, it is true, with maximum discretion, neglecting even to observe the cherished diplomatic ritual of calling upon the Swiss Ambassador; but, given the impressive resourcefulness of modern investigative journalism, it is strange that their activities were so modestly reported.

A little earlier a representative of Amnesty International had been attending an important trial in Teheran. He came to the conclusion, to the surprise of very few people in Iran, that there is considerable room for improvement in the legal and judicial systems of the country.

Whether the reports of either of these international organizations will be given much publicity, or whether their recommendations will be acted upon, are questions which I am not qualified to answer, since the Iranians take the somewhat intransigent view that these affairs are largely their own business, and that the volatile critics who abound in the West might consider putting their own house in order before engaging upon ambitious spring cleaning projects elsewhere.

I mention these matters by way of introduction to a few observations on the subject which my fellow crusader S. Levin addressed himself with characteristic pungency last week. Namely the conveniently selective criteria which some people apply to that intricate and tangled skein of problems known generically as "human rights".

The activities of right-wing authoritarian regimes are the subject of much bitterly hostile comment among western radicals; a knowledge of the facts might prove embarrassing to some of those who are responsible for it.

The expression "human rights" is now much used as a convenient coin in the currency of political debate; and it has, therefore inevitably been debased. It can be, and is, evoked to deal with a broad spectrum of issues ranging from the torture of political prisoners to the punishment of juvenile delinquents and the "liberation" of women.

It is, therefore, following the excellent precept of Dr Johnson, useful to define one's terms. I believe that what we should really be concerned with is, quite simply, the precious importance of the human individual. The most superficial study of history suggests that every great step forward in the human condition has sprung from the realization that the dignity and sanctity of the individual should be the paramount concern of the political process.

The abolition of slavery and evolution of liberal democracy are only two of many examples. It is when respect for the individual human being is subordinated to other conditions that there is an inevitable relapse into darkness and a covering under the shadow of the gallows.

I shall not, I think, be widely accused of hyperbole if I say that the idea of respect for the individual is taking a severe beating all over the world. Man, to borrow an image from a somewhat dubious source, is everywhere in chains. In South America, in Africa, in Asia and Europe, men and women are deprived of their freedom, tortured and humiliated for no better reasons than that they disagree openly with the actions or attitudes of those who hold power over them.

A stained reputation

It is important to recognize that these dreadful and often violent manifestations of tyranny are not the monopoly or the prerogative of any single political persuasion. The burning cigarette, the electric arc and the prison camp are the tools of fascist and communist alike. Even the British, by instinct and experience a compassionate and gentle people, have had their reputation sullied in Northern Ireland. It is to their credit that they confessed that what they had done was evil; and they are unlikely to let it happen again.

I suspect, however, that they will not be allowed to forget it when one of their political leaders next has the temerity to illuminate the persistent and cruel denial of human rights which characterizes life in the Soviet empire.

It is, I think, important that we should be prepared to condemn the denial of this basic principle of justice and equity, whatever its political derivation, or however superficially persuasive its justification. The balance between freedom and order is a delicate one, and to maintain it, there may often have to be encroachments upon the absolute freedom of action of the individual—especially if it threatens to restrict or erode the freedom of others.

But there can never be any justification for the torture, terrorization or degradation of one human being by another.

least of all for the "crime" of political dissent. Yet the spectre of the double standard still stalks through the corridors marked "human rights". There are those who will rail passionately against the oppression of blacks by whites in South Africa, but who will maintain a strange reticence over the dreadful excesses committed by blacks against blacks in Uganda or Tanzania. Politicians of radical inclination, often claiming a monopoly of compassion, take to the streets with banners to condemn some act of tyranny by a right-wing military government in South America; they remain apparently unmoved by the savagery of the Marxist military Government in Ethiopia.

The activities of the secret police in Iran or the autocratic edicts of Mr Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore can be relied upon to evoke a ready response in every bleeding heart in the western radical establishment, or the fostering prison camps of the Soviet Union and the persistent obscenity of the barbed wire and concrete barriers which run through Germany and Berlin are contemplated with an apathetic cynicism which makes the blood run cold.

It might surprise many of the radical cult figures of the West (and of this country, in particular), preoccupied as they are with their highly selective campaigns for human rights, to learn that in many parts of the world they are regarded with a mixture of pity and contempt. Their manic reaction to authoritarianism of the right, coupled with their obstinate acceptance of totalitarianism of the left, leads many friends of the West to ask, with confused and justifiable perplexity: "Whose side are they on?"

In the matter of the defence of human dignity there is, of course, only one side. Whose side diminishes me diminishes the whole of mankind. The fact is that many of the most ardent voices in the human rights chorus belong to people whose regard for the individual and his dignity is minimal; their principal concern is to promote their own political ideology, to protect from the rigours of the law anyone who is not of their own persuasion, and to blackguard and revile anyone who rejects it.

It is as very well, so far as it goes, for distinguished social workers of the left to attend church services and to deliver sermons about the iniquities of General Pinochet's regime in Chile. Before their concern for the human condition can be taken really seriously, however, they will have to put on similar displays of indignation about the dreadful atrocities of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

If they are not prepared to condemn savagery, oppression and systematic assaults upon the human individual wherever they occur, they must not be surprised to find that their pious utterances as no more than volleys played upon the cacophonous but most ubiquitous and dissonant instrument in the orchestra of radical protest—the human rights issue.

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One of the depressing features of present British politics is the almost total absence of any radicalism, of any desire to alter our society for the better. There have been two great reforming governments this century: the Liberal Government of 1906-10 and Attlee's post-war Labour Government; but since 1950 little has changed.

The Liberals have often claimed that they are in the forefront of radical thinking, yet when they shade the recent pact with the Government and chose the two issues which seemed most important to them, they selected direct elections to Europe, preferably with proportional representation, and a revival of the Devolution Bill. Both are profound changes, yet neither would affect the structure of British society.

So is life in this country perfect? Perhaps we have become so obsessed by economic problems that there is neither time nor energy for anything else. If so, this is a pity as lack of any radicalism shows either inordinate self-satisfaction or the loss of all hope, all ambition for a better life for ourselves and our children.

After a decade representing a very mixed constituency which has farming, fishing and a variety of industrial concerns scattered among 11 small towns, and in each of such vast satisfaction or unjust situations which brought me into politics remain virtually unaltered. We are still a highly divided society. People in different income brackets not only live in very different lives but they are still so far apart in sentiment that they think of others in categories

rather than as individuals like themselves. And to lump people together as "employers", "workers", "scroungers", the "idle rich" or as just "them" and "us" makes for misunderstanding; it makes it easy both to blame others for the country's problems and to avoid treating every one with equal respect.

Looking at my own constituency, there seem to be three situations or institutions which do much to maintain these social divisions. (The school system might have been included if I represented part of a city but in a small town and rural constituency the schools have never been a divisive factor in that they have always and happily catered for all the children in each locality.)

The first of these sources of division are relations between employers and workers. In two cases recently, owners have urged their employees to work harder to make the firm, a process which, without any warning, sold the company to a competitor whose objective in buying has been to close the factory in order to sell its

character of most of the new authority, that many of Labour's county majorities, however large they might look in terms of seats, were at risk to the sort of swing that is now quite usual in British politics. Swings of under 10 per cent would have sufficed to give the Conservatives control of five of the seven Metropolitan Counties (including Greater London), leaving only South Yorkshire and Tyne & Wear in Labour hands—which is indeed what happened on Thursday.

The swing was, of course, much bigger than the 10 per cent needed. As a guide to the current mood in the party and to prospects for the next elections, it is more useful to compare this year's results in the metropolitan counties with those in the metropolitan districts in the last two years. This is easy, because metropolitan district votes in all years when there are no county elections. Table I, showing the results in eight Northern districts, makes it clear that Labour not only did much worse than in the last year, but also did much worse than in the year before.

That, and the socially mixed

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The essential need in politics for a radical policy

Them and us: what we can do to heal our divided land

Perhaps we have become so obsessed by economic problems that there is no time for anything else

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The first of these sources of division are relations between employers and workers. In two cases recently, owners have urged their employees to work harder to make the firm, a process which, without any warning, sold the company to a competitor whose objective in buying has been to close the factory in order to sell its

machinery or to reduce competition. While the problems of owners can be understood, if firms whose assets include the energy and skill of the workforce are sold like second-hand cars whenever there is a good offer, it is not surprising if a "we, they" attitude becomes entrenched.

And one often encounters this attitude in industry (though not in farming or in fishing). On several occasions I have been asked by managements to help over some industrial dispute. And in each case, when I have replied that I will see both sides and then we will meet, over lunch, the response is one of incredulity: "What, sit down and eat with the shop stewards?"

For these reasons, one of my chosen reforms would be to put workers' representatives on boards. They should be elected by the whole workforce and sit on a supervisory board, the pace being set by management. They must be told what is happening to their firm, managements must learn to treat and regard them as fellow human beings and both sides must see

their joint interest in the success of the enterprise embodied in an agreed institution. A second major divisive factor is the gap between owner-occupiers and council house tenants. The former are regarded as people with status; they have their own home which expresses their personality, where they are safe and can do as they like. The latter are squatters all their lives.

For simplicity, councils make rules—no dogs, no sub-tenants, no running businesses from the house and any money spent on improvements is lost when the tenant dies or moves. To sell council houses is no answer as the better-off tenants will buy and the stock of houses for those on the waiting list is diminished. Selling council houses would only be to redraw the line between the two categories of people at a different place.

The really radical solution I would like to see adopted by managements and owners would be to give the houses to all those tenants who had paid rent for, say, 25 years and to convert all other tenancies into instalment purchase schemes. This would be a huge transfer of wealth to the tenants but it would relieve ratepayers of the cost of repairs. It would and under-occupancy and allow mobility.

The one proviso would be that the local council would have to have first chance of purchase, if it so desired, at an independent value's price, so that the house could then be made available on the same instalment purchase terms to

the next person on the housing list. The third divisive factor is the gap between people who have jobs and pay tax and those who become beneficiaries of the welfare system, who have to sign on, be visited by inspectors and assessed. If a negative income tax system could be devised so that anyone was out of work, ill or just badly off, the same returns could be made as those who are not.

There are problems of incentives and of easy and quick adjustments to new circumstances, but if these could be overcome the result would be most desirable.

The present world with the Labour Party is that the Social Democrats are obsessed with economic problems (but perhaps these internal divisions are a major reason for their poor performance). The left in the Party desire social justice but seek to achieve it by emphasizing the divisions, by fighting for workers against employers, against the "bourgeoisie" against the "proletariat", all of which helps to maintain these gaps.

What we need now is to try and free Britain from these divisions which do so much to reduce the appreciation of the humanity of other members of society and to impoverish our lives.

John Mackintosh

The author is Labour MP for Berwick and East Lothian.

The local elections proof that Labour and its Liberal allies really are sliding

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The swing was, of course, much bigger than the 10 per cent needed. As a guide to the current mood in the party and to prospects for the next elections, it is more useful to compare this year's results in the metropolitan counties with those in the metropolitan districts in the last two years. This is easy, because metropolitan district votes in all years when there are no county elections. Table I, showing the results in eight Northern districts, makes it clear that Labour not only did much worse than in the last year, but also did much worse than in the year before.

That, and the socially mixed

character of most of the new authority, that many of Labour's county majorities, however large they might look in terms of seats, were at risk to the sort of swing that is now quite usual in British politics. Swings of under 10 per cent would have sufficed to give the Conservatives control of five of the seven Metropolitan Counties (including Greater London), leaving only South Yorkshire and Tyne & Wear in Labour hands—which is indeed what happened on Thursday.

any time since the general election. TABLE I. Conservative share of two-party vote in selected metropolitan districts (%)

TABLE II. Swing to Con in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE III. Swing to Lab in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE IV. Swing to Lib in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE V. Swing to Ind in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE VI. Swing to Oth in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE VII. Swing to Con in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE VIII. Swing to Lab in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE IX. Swing to Lib in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE X. Swing to Ind in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

TABLE XI. Swing to Oth in selected metropolitan districts since October 1974 (%)

This suggests that London was, if anything, at the lower end of the scale. The only consolation for Labour is that these results are a lot less disastrous than those in 1968, the party's worst year. When communists were still possible, they show Labour running some eight to ten points better than then. (When considering local election results, it is as well to remember that the Government party, especially when Labour is in office, underpools by some 5 per cent what it would get at parliamentary by-elections. On that basis, the mood of the country is placed approximately halfway between the results of Grimsby and Ashford.)

The Liberal decline has continued, though since this has been going on over the last two years it would be rash to attribute it solely to the parliamentary pact. Liverpool illustrates the point. In 1974, the Liberals became the largest party on the district council, polling 35.4 per cent. This dropped to 33.1 per cent in 1975, 30.5 per cent in 1976 and now stands at 28.6 per cent.

But the Liberal hopes of holding the balance of power in Merseyside, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire were dashed, at least as much by the rise of the Conservative gains from Labour as by their own decline.

The National Front, making its biggest attempt yet, has not advanced beyond its previous voting strength. In Leicester, where it fought all wards last year and this, it has gone down from 15 to 13.6 per cent. In the old Bradford city area, it has gone from 11.3 to 11.4 per cent.

Broadly speaking, these results confirm what we have suspected: that the Government and its Liberal allies are unpopular, perceptibly more so than this time last year, rather less so than last autumn and not trailing as disastrously as in 1968. The speed of current swings is no less impressive than their size.

Peter Pulzer

The author is Tutor in Politics, Christ Church, Oxford.

The liberal teacher who turned his back on old age to lead world thought

Professor F. A. Hayek yesterday spent his 78th birthday travelling from Guatemala, where he had been at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin, to New York, on his way to Cornell University. During this month he will also be at Pennsylvania State College (for a conference on Cognition and the Symbolic Processes) and in California.

In the last few months of 1976 he was in New Zealand, Australia and Japan. The other day he was in London between a conference of economists in Amsterdam which discussed social justice, the rule of law and the control of money and the Biennial International Monetary Conference of the Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt. His travels indicate the world demand for his wide-ranging intellectual expositions.

His modesty and courtesy go with him.

In a chat with him in late April we ranged from his early days in Britain, when I was drawn to his lectures at the University of London, to his recent paper I have been editing, and on to his writings in the years ahead in which he will be returning to economics. He was in full vigour after an interminable period of indigestion, health and spiritual doldrums in the early 70s. Even his language was light-hearted: "I saw old age and did not like it; so I have returned." He spoke of a series of studies of economists and their contributions to follow in volume III of *Law, Legislation and Liberty*. If they are like his discussions of the thinking of Acton, Burke, Hegel, Hume, Locke, Mandeville, Menger, John Stuart Mill, Ricardo, Rousseau, de Tocqueville and many others, we have intellectual stimulus to come.

His new lease of vigour pre-

dated the 1974 Nobel Prize awarded with Myrdal of Sweden. His lectures over the years in several continents since he "retired" in 1967 follow his five periods of formal teaching at the universities of Vienna, London, Chicago, Freiburg and Salzburg. But he was by far longest in London, nearly 20 years from 1951 to 1970. His world renown is that of a scholar with a special relationship to Britain.

His appointment to Britain as Locke Professor of Economic Science and Society was suggested, Lord Robbins reveals in his *Autobiography* of an Economist, by Beveridge. He became naturalized and has remained a British citizen ever since. In Austria, where he was born, and in Germany, where he now teaches, he is legally a foreigner. He visits Britain regularly to see his son, a medical microbiologist in Devonshire, and daughter (an entomologist at the British Museum), his publisher, and to

lecture. Above all, he is in the direct line of descent of the British (or rather Scottish) school of economics and philosophy of David Hume and Adam Smith.

Scholars of a wide range have honoured him. Sir Karl Popper dedicated to him his *Open Society and Its Enemies*. The *Growth of Scientific Knowledge* in 1963. A *Festschrift* to Hayek in 1969, entitled *Roads to Freedom*, on the suggestion of Popper, to comprise the liberal stand for the plural approaches to analysis and policy, exemplified in Hayek's work, comprised essays by 14 economists from Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa and the United States. A second honorary volume, *Essays on Liberty* in 1976 contains chapters by two economists, an economist, a philosopher, a scientist and a philosopher.

In a review article headed "Honour to Hayek" in *Roads to Freedom*, Professor Sir

Arnold Plant spoke of the qualities he displayed in their early days at the LSE: "I can testify from personal experience to the immense stimulus and direction which Hayek gave to economic research in the 1930s, not only in London and economics faculties throughout the United Kingdom, but also in the international world of scholarship."

Sir Arnold also wrote of the Austrian school of economics, of which Hayek is the latest exponent, that it was largely unrecognized in Britain until Hayek introduced it to the LSE. (It almost fell out of sight again until the recent revival of interest in it.) "Methodological individualism" by some younger British economists. Together these men of learning have analysed Hayek's work as scholarship, original, fertile, penetrating and wide-ranging. Robbins said Hayek "lived at the frontiers of speculation", that is the supreme accolade for a scholar.

The range of Hayek's teaching and writing again echoes his intellectual descent from the philosopher/economists of the eighteenth century enlightenment: David Hume wrote the *History of the Philosophy of Moral Sciences*, Adam Smith wrote *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Hayek began as an economist and turned to political science, the theory of law, philosophy, ethics and even psychology. He has lately returned to economics with the radical proposition that economic and social order must be based on the supply of money as a necessary monopoly of government. He has come full circle after a range of contemplation not always found among economists. However others may have differed from him in the social sciences he has explored, Hayek has influenced thinking in most of them.

The diverse forces that determine whether an idea influences policy and events or

is ignored because it is before its time are reflected in Hayek's work and life. In his early days he differed from Keynes and when it seemed that the world thought Keynes's solution to political and economic problems was the only one, Hayek turned to long-term principles and consequences that would affect mankind whatever government judged appropriate to the approach, needs of the hour. If there had been no war and his economic approach, lasting together some 12 to 15 years, Keynes's diagnoses and solutions might have failed in the forties. (Hayek believes that Keynes would himself have revised his judgments.) But in the circumstances Hayek may have been right to turn his attention to more enduring themes.

Hayek's relatively neglected early and middle writings on law, theory of capital, the critique of "scientism", the error of applying to the social sciences the supposed methodology of the natural sciences.

inspired by environmental campaigners, which limits to 23,000 the number of porpoises they are allowed to kill accidentally each year. (And what about bats? Only America could a news story appear quoting Dr Julia Chase of Barnard College, as saying: "Bats are basically harmless creatures who've suffered from bad publicity.") New York, mind you, is not the best place to observe an energy crisis from. For, like all large cities, it is less preoccupied with its energy than areas of less concentrated habitation. Those who know how to calcu-

late such things as that a suburban householder consumes 40 per cent more energy than someone who lives in a city flat.

His detached house, with its walls exposed to the elements, takes a great deal of heating, while the other this dividing walls of Manhattan apartments pass some heat from one to the next. The suburbanite drives to work in his large car, while the city dweller goes by energy-effective public transport.

Russell Baker, the historian, seized on this point in an ironic article the other day, in which he recalled that the rest of the United States had been reluctant to come to New York's aid in its fiscal crisis. New Yorkers, he suggested, should therefore be chary about sharing with other Americans their knowledge of conserving energy, about giving them "expert" demonstrations of what a bus looks like and how to ride a subway without getting your pocket picked.

One of the areas of the city in which I have been looking for a flat is the very model of an energy-saving community. It is Roosevelt Island, which old wags will remember as Welfare Island, a small strip of land in the East River.

Now it is a small community of new, mixed-income apartment

buildings. Hooked to Manhattan by what is called a train, but is better described as an overhead electric cableway, covering a distance of about the same as that between Leinster Palace and the Houses of Parliament. Cars are not allowed on the island except for specific purposes for which a permit must be obtained. Transport from the train station is by slow, non-polluting, electric mini-buses.

If not quite so idyllic as it is made to sound, it is a vision of the future where the pace of life is gentler than on Manhattan proper and where—quite rare in the city—the schools are safe for white, middle-class children. There is plenty of space for them to run about in safety, and bicycling is a popular pastime.

I have not yet decided whether we shall live there, but the decision might be affected by something I spotted as I strolled around in the warm spring sunshine. I came across an area of pallid soil where a brave attempt was being made to grow vegetables. The area was divided by large white stones into a number of small plots. Would you believe it?

Arthur Seldon

Michael Leapman

that large cars can damage the nation's health. Nor is there any sign that the waste of consumption of power is being curtailed.

I have spent most of my time here looking at flats, trying to find one for me and my family to move into when I begin my full-time assignment to New York in August. All of them come ready equipped not just with a large refrigerator and gas cooker, but also with an electric dishwasher.

The dishwasher is probably an ineradicable part of the American way of life now, and it certainly gives the cleaner than doing it by hand. But most people in other parts of the world manage the job adequately without mechanical aids.

And the latest gadget which is without is an elaborate food processing machine, costing \$120 upwards, advertised as making a quickie terrine in seconds and a steak tartare in minutes, or maybe it was vice versa.

In truth I had not expected to find New Yorkers eating in such a way. The reason I am labouring the point is to highlight the absurdity of the latest of their

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Summit ends discussion on world economy with only a restating of targets

By David Black
Economic Correspondent

In spite of efforts, mostly by Britain, before the Downing Street summit to secure some sort of consensus that the strong nations would have to make major readjustments to meet the West out of its current problems, the summit concluded its discussion yesterday of the world economy with only a restating of targets.

The summit, which was held in the Economic Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, to the evident dissatisfaction in the West of the week's work.

Although the summit meeting will have some follow-up in the form of future sessions of finance ministers in bodies such as the OECD and the International Monetary Fund, the responsibility for ensuring that the growth targets are met will rest firmly with the individual countries, where it has always been.

The OECD ministerial meeting in June is likely to consider the latest available forecasts, and there may be another chance to look at progress on the fringes of the IMF meeting in Washington in late September.

But the delay before these decisions, and the even longer delay before any new summit is convened to look again at the issue, means that any international monitoring of the targets which have been set is likely to be ineffective.

This is because all the growth targets mentioned during the session of which the predicted 5 per cent German expansion is the most controversial, refer to 1977. By the time any international body could decide that the Germans are underachieving, it would be too late to do anything to rectify the situation, for this year at least. No systematic target has been set out for 1978.

The Germans seem to have felt that an effort was being made before the meeting to force them to accept a more exacting target, and they were determined to drop their commitment to pursuing only very moderate growth targets.

In this, they were quite correct, but in the event the change of policy by the United States shown by the dropping of the 5.5 per cent target, meant that it was the expansionists who were isolated.

The country which seems to have pressed hardest for some global strategy to boost the world economy was the United Kingdom, which at preparatory talks in Washington presented the growth targets which it had communicated should say.

In the event, yesterday's communiqué seems to be considerably closer to proposals made by the Americans after they had dropped the commitment to pursue the German target.

Some limited stimulus to the German economy is not ruled out in coming months. In private, some German officials are beginning to have doubts about whether the 5 per cent target can be achieved without some new measures.

But they reject the idea that more classic reflation—what they call "neue Keynesianism"—provides the answer to the problem of unemployment in the West. They argue their holding down

Founder to buy back £5m stake in engineers

By Richard Allen

Mr John Murphy, founder and chairman of J. Murphy & Co., the civil engineering group, is to buy back the 75 per cent interest in his company which he sold five years ago to London & Northern Development.

L & N announced last night that it was selling the interest for £5,025,000 to Drillon, a subsidiary of an Isle of Man investment company which is wholly owned by Mr Murphy's family interests.

The price, to comprise a cash payment of £2.5m and a six-year debenture issue covering a further £2,525,000, compares with a total of £7.4m paid by L & N in 1972.

A spokesman for L & N said last night that the deal had been reached amicably with Mr Murphy, who became a member of the parent company's board on the date of the acquisition. He said that Mr Murphy, who will now resign his L & N directorship, had become restless within the combined organisation and wanted to run Murphy on an independent basis once again.

He added that the deal would lessen L & N's dependence on the heavy end of the construction sector while providing further funds for the de-gearing programme which has been a major feature of the group's activities for the past three years.

The £2.42m "goodwill" outstanding after the sale to Murphy is to be written off against L & N's share premium account as is a further £7.1m in respect of the group's Bardon subsidiary, which was taken over in 1973.

It is no secret that the Murphy acquisition has been a source of disappointment and some confusion to L & N since it turned in surmountable profits of £1.1m in 1972. The contribution dropped to £452,000 in 1973 and fell further in subsequent years as the whole group came under severe pressure from Government spending cuts.

Last year Murphy and its subsidiary J. M. Pilling was fined just under £600,000 in connection with the celebrated "chip" case over payments to subcontractors. A released liability amounting to £900,000 also resulted in heavy exceptional item provisions attributable to L & N.

These liabilities are to be removed from L & N as a result of the deal and are mainly responsible for a reduction in Murphy's net tangible assets from £5.5m to £4.5m, 75 per cent of which is attributable to L & N.

L & N reports that after further substantial provisions against tax developments in 1976 pre-tax profits to be reported later this month should be similar to last year's £9.6m. Net attributable profits may be slightly lower.

CBI criticized by Mr Jones for 'confusing country over Bullock'

By Edward Townsend

Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday accused the Confederation of British Industry of staging "an outstanding public relations job" designed to misinterpret the recommendations of the Bullock report on industrial democracy and confuse the country.

A member of the Bullock Committee and a leading advocate of worker directorship, Mr Jones declared that the CBI had "done the axing job" on Bullock and it was now up to the trade union movement to learn its lesson.

The CBI's latest attack on the Bullock proposals is contained in a booklet published yesterday which states that the imposition of a rigid formula for trade union members "is at best a recipe for deadlock and at worst for deepening conflict."

It suggests that an extension of employee participation would help to bring about greater efficiency and better industrial relations, and says that many companies already do a great deal to involve employees more fully at plant and company level.

The CBI wants to see companies with 2,000 or more employees obliged by law to negotiate participation agreements which would be endorsed by secret ballot of all workers.

Mr Jones said: "The main thrust of the CBI recommendations, which is as old as the hills in Britain, is to re-create works councils. They have existed in this country since the start of the century. The CBI leaders know better than to say this is a new idea."

It did not require a law to give employees negotiating rights they already had. "What is required is a change in company law which would place the obligation on employers to have a responsibility for both workers and shareholders."

"If you accept that, it follows that the workers should be represented on policy-making bodies," the CBI carefully skirts round that.

The trade union movement would not be emasculated "by some phoney form of joint participation," Mr Jones said.

The Bullock proposals were "perfectly reasonable" and suffered only from lack of general explanation. "The whole of the British media were opposed to Bullock before it published its reports," he added.

"However, I recognize the political reality of the time and that is why I am personally most anxious first to see the application of the Bullock proposals to the nationalized industries and, hopefully, legislation that would bring in Bullock in general."

The CBI document, *In Place of Bullock*, studies the way in which a participation agreement would be reached. If no agreement was achieved after four years, a Participation Agency would, as a last resort, be able to impose one if this was requested by either Party.

Practical difficulties of implementing Bullock are "hair-raising," the CBI says. Participation would not succeed if it was seen by managers and workers as in some way weakening or conflicting with collective bargaining.

It was essential that where there was collective bargaining and trade union machinery shop stewards should be involved in the participation agreements as well.

Disunited US miners unbalance Carter plan

Mr Ray Marshall, the United States Secretary of Labour, is worried, to put it mildly, about the affairs of the United Mineworkers' Union. His concern is shared by other members of President Carter's Cabinet.

The unions' troubles may not only produce difficulties in America's already tense relations between government, big business and big labour organizations, but it may also undermine much of this Administration's energy strategy, which heavily depends on the strong and efficient coal industry.

Mr Marshall says that the success or failure of the Administration's anti-inflation policies will depend on results achieved in industry talks between government officials, corporate executives and trade unionists.

Later this year there is bound to be extremely tough wage negotiations in the coal industry, which could establish inflationary precedents for much of American industry. A strike in December seems likely, although nothing is really predictable right now as the miners' union is in chaos.

Strikes and firings have become commonplace at the union's Washington headquarters, while wildcat strikes are becoming numerous down in the mines and out in the coalfields.

Mr W. Tony Boyle, the powerful union boss, was replaced after an ugly union rumpus scandal by the mild and calm Mr Arnold Miller. Mr Miller now faces two tough opponents in union elections next month, and his success chances look bleak.

Many of Mr Boyle's former henchmen are determined to regain control over the union. In their candidates in the election is Mr Lee Roy Patterson. His association with the former union boss may harm him in some quarters, but one-third of the union's 277,000 members are pensioners who would well approve of Mr Patterson.

Mr Miller is also being opposed by one of his former reforming allies, the miners' secretary, Mr Harry Patrick. The reformers look split today, making Mr Patterson the most likely victor in the June 14 poll.

Many union members have ignored efforts by the union leadership to end unofficial strikes. Local district officials have undermined the leadership's power by keeping for themselves all powers over membership fee collections. The union's finances are in a mess and its hold on the mines has declined through falling membership.

Mr Miller negotiated 54 per cent pay rises over three years for his members in 1974. This will help him to put up a good fight in the coming election. But his pressures on the winning candidate to achieve a better contract are great.

A better contract may have to be insisted upon if the new union president is in success in getting it ratified by his members. President Carter's strong support for increased coal production will only strengthen the resolve among rank-and-file union members in stage a long strike to obtain large pay rises.

And large pay increases will be viewed jealously by members of many unions whose wage contracts are to be renewed in 1978. Such a development would probably shatter at home that fair Marshall and others in the Carter Administration have of succeeding with their new anti-inflation plan.

Frank Vogl

Mr Varley pressed to delay on hipyards

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and his officials are faced with growing pressure for the formal establishment of a British Shipbuilding Board for new shipbuilding, which will take over the role of United Kingdom Shipbuilders on July 1.

There is mounting concern among trade union leaders as to the apparent lack of government support for the shipbuilding industry. The board for the new shipbuilding, which will take over the role of United Kingdom Shipbuilders on July 1.

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Rolls drops jet plan with Pratt & Whitney

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Rolls-Royce and Pratt & Whitney have agreed to drop plans to develop and produce jointly a new jet engine, the JT10D.

The reason for the decision is that the big aircraft-making companies in the United States have said that the JT10D would not be sufficiently powerful at up to 24,000lb to power the new generation of airliners which they have on their design tables.

Work on the JT10D was to have provided thousands of jobs in the United States, but the company will fill the gap by scaling down their RB 211 engine and offering that as the power plant for the new airliners.

A version of the RB211 is now flying on British Airways' Conquesters, with 50,000lb thrust, but by scaling it down, or "chipping", the RB211 could give 32,000lb of thrust—the sort of power for which the aircraft manufacturers are now asking.

Rolls and Pratt and Whitney have been discussing the JT10D project together for more than two years. They had gone so far as to draw up heads of agreement for a contract.

The pairing was seen as an unlikely venture. Rolls, now working on chipping the RB211 on their own, while the American firm, whose own big fan engine, the JT9D, is not capable of similar scaling down treatment, will concentrate on modernizing its engines.

Without an American partner Rolls will find it more difficult to sell their chipped RB211 into the American market. They will be up against the third big engine manufacturer in the western world, General Electric, who are scaling down their big fan, the CFE.

But although the market will be harder, working on their own on the RB211, rather than with a partner on a brand new engine project, will have big advantages for Rolls.

The development cost will be a fraction of that of a new project, while the airlines are more likely to buy it as they know that the technical "bugs" have been removed from the RB211 years ago.

Protest over Minis pile-up at Innocenti

From John Earle
Rome, May 8

Innocenti of Lambrate, near Milan, is selling only half the Minis assembled under agreement with British Leyland.

According to a factory workers' council, about 14,000 vehicles have piled up at the works and with dealers.

British Leyland, which handed over ownership of Innocenti last year to a joint venture between the Italian carmaker and the British Leyland Group, is continuing to provide assembly kits for an output of 40,000 Minis a year.

The workers' council representatives said at a press conference in Milan, that out of a daily production capacity of 190 the market was absorbing only 90 to 100.

The works council and the local trade union called a press conference to protest against "the inability of Signor de Tommaso to meet commitments."

Signor de Tommaso, director general of the NCI, says his members are becoming increasingly concerned by, for instance, the spread of job-centres into ground-floor, high street locations.

Computer groups shy of NEB coordination

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Three problems are holding up progress in the National Enterprise Board's attempt to bring elements of the computer software industry together in a coordinated attack on overseas markets.

These have been caused by a generally poor response from the industry; a fear by the independent companies of possible domination by Datacell, the software subsidiary of ICL; and the computer manufacturers' and unforeseen practical difficulties in implementing the scheme.

Launched at the beginning of February, the board's plan is based on a new NEB subsidiary, the National Data Systems. Software companies in which the board takes a stake are eligible to become member companies of Insac, which then aims to provide support for marketing programmes abroad.

So far the only company to have come forward is Computer Analysts & Programmers, one of the largest of the independent software houses, in which the NEB now holds a 29.9 per cent stake. The board already held the Government's 24.42 per cent stake in ICL, which includes Datacell.

On the publication of the NEB's first annual report last week, Mr David Dunbar, head of the board's computer and electronics division, admitted that the response from industry had been poor.

The original intention was that Insac's policy plan would be drawn up by a board consisting mainly of representatives of the member companies. Now, Mr Dunbar said, the NEB had to decide whether to wait for more industry "input" or to go ahead itself and lay down the principles on which Insac would operate.

At least one of the larger independent software houses is believed to be near agreement on a reorganization which will include Insac membership.

The third problem, of which companies have recently become aware, is that the NEB/Insac arrangements have yet to reconcile a number of conflicts—for example, how to reconcile full information for Insac with commercial protection for individual member companies.

Certainly there is doubt and some suspicion in the industry towards the NEB's plan. A small supporting staff will be established by their respective concerns agree to put up the cash. They also hope to involve a wider range of individuals and groups in establishing a national discussion network and centre to promote studies of possible social and economic futures for Britain.

'Network' formed for planning by industry

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy Correspondent

Representatives from several of Britain's biggest industrial concerns have formed a "network" to improve long-term planning. They hope it may grow into a national movement that might help the country to tighten its grip on the course of events in the decades ahead.

The network has been established during meetings over the past six months, culminating in a two-day conference last Thursday and Friday at Ashbridge Management College, in Hertfordshire, attended by about forty delegates.

Most of those involved are forecasters and researchers themselves from public and private industry.

Among the concerns represented last week were the Post Office, British Airways, the National Coal Board, the Atomic Energy Authority, ICI, IBM, GKN, Pilkington, Unilever, Shell International, Lucas, and the British Petroleum Corporation, Philips, the Blue Circle group and the Inter-Bank Research Organization.

All are committed to a regular exchange of ideas and information that is not subject to commercial secrecy. A small supporting staff will be established by their respective concerns agree to put up the cash. They also hope to involve a wider range of individuals and groups in establishing a national discussion network and centre to promote studies of possible social and economic futures for Britain.

Top 500 American companies boost profits to \$49,400m

Our US Economics correspondent, Washington, May 8

America's biggest 500 companies had combined total profits of \$49,400m in 1976, up from \$43,000m in 1975, according to a survey by the National Chamber of Commerce.

The survey, which is the largest of its kind, shows that the top 500 companies in America have increased their profits by 15 per cent in the last year.

The new list, headed by Exxon, shows that the biggest 500 companies boosted sales by 12.2 per cent and net profits by 30.4 per cent respectively.

Business Machines, which is in quite another league in terms of sales compared to Exxon and GM, with merely one-third of their sales totals, slipped one place to eighth position on the sales table, but it is still a most comfortable third in terms of net income.

So huge are the biggest companies on the list, with all of the top 10 having 1976 sales of over \$15,000m, that even vast acquisitions make little if any difference to the rankings.

Fortune notes, for example, that Mobil Oil, which took over the Maroon chain store group and which raised its sales by 26 per cent last year, could still not improve on its 1975 ranking of fifth position.

General Electric is in just the same ninth place as it was in 1975, despite its marriage with Utah International (which ranked 273rd on Fortune's 1975 list) in what has been widely called the largest merger in United States corporate history.

Exxon and GM will continue to do battle with each other for the top spot, but they hold such a vast lead over their nearest rivals that it is difficult to imagine their supremacy being challenged.

Exxon's sales and net income last year were respectively \$46,530m and \$2,641m, while GM had sales of \$47,183m and a net income of \$2,903m.

Between Exxon and the third-placed Ford Motor Co is a sales gap of almost \$20,000m. Changes have taken place and could continue to take place for the three "spots" immediately behind the two leaders.

Behind the two leaders, Ford has moved from fourth to third on sales of \$28,840m (net income of \$983,100m), while Texaco has slipped back one place to fourth position with sales of \$26,452m (net income of \$869,731m).

Mobil is still at fifth with sales of about \$400m below those recorded by Texaco, but it can take satisfaction in having a net income that is almost \$23m greater than Texaco's.

The remaining 15 of the top 20 places on the list illustrate just more clearly the vastness of the biggest companies, with sixth placed Standard Oil of California having sales of \$19,434m, which are treble those of Texaco.

These lower 15 of the top 20 spots are filled in order by Standard Oil of California, Gulf Oil, IBM, General Electric, Chrysler, IT and T, Standard Oil of Indiana, Shell Oil of Houston, United States Steel, Atlantic Richfield, Du Pont, Continental Oil, Western Electric, Procter and Gamble and Tenneco.

The only industrial company, other than the top two, with net income of over \$1,000m is IBM with 1976 income at \$2,398m.

Gloomy forecast for building

Predictions that the recession in the building sector will deepen as the year progresses are based on the results of the April survey from the National Federation of Building Trades Employers published today. Over half of all the companies questioned reported a decline in inquiries from potential customers, compared with those in the previous quarter. Only 18 per cent said they had received more.

Some 80 per cent of companies in the industry are now working at three-quarters capacity or less, and this proportion is expected to grow in the next 12 months.

Call to cut EEC isoglucose levy

Pressure on the European Commission to modify a proposed levy on the production of isoglucose is expected to intensify after an announcement from the Dutch company, Scholten Honig, that it might abandon a plan to build a £30m isoglucose plant at Tilbury in Essex.

The levy, which in its suggested form would add about £30 per ton to the cost of producing the sugar substitute, has been opposed by the British Government. Companies have complained that it would make operations uneconomic.

Tunnel Refineries, which has invested £8m in an isoglucose plant at Greenwich due to start operations in six weeks' time, was said yesterday to be investigating other possible uses for the plant, in case the levy was imposed.

The levy is favoured by EEC beet producers, who fear competition from isoglucose. The product is currently about £10 per ton cheaper than sugar.

Increased trade with Austria to be sought

British industry is to be urged to investigate the possibility of increasing trade with Austria following top-level discussions held in Vienna last week.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, who met senior Austrian government and industry officials, will meet leaders of the Confederation of British Industry and is hoping that more trade missions can be arranged. Britain's trade with Austria last year was about half the level of trade with Switzerland.

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Lending rate 8½ pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remained pegged at 8½ per cent. The market related formula for setting M.L.R. continued in suspension. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Application £35m	Allocated £35m
Sub at 8.5125% (Received 24.7%)	Sub at 8.5125% (Received 24.7%)
Prv week 8.5000%	Prv week 8.5000%
Prv week 8.5000%	Prv week 8.5000%

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION OF Deere & Company

Successor Obligor to John Deere Overseas Capital Corporation

5% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Deed dated as of June 15, 1964, made by John Deere Overseas Capital Corporation, Deere & Company as Guarantor, and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, as heretofore amended and supplemented, Deere & Company, Successor Obligor to John Deere Overseas Capital Corporation, has exercised its option to and will redeem, on Wednesday, June 15, 1977 (the "Redemption Date"), all of its then outstanding 5% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986 (the "Debentures"), at the redemption price of 101% of the principal amount thereof (the "Redemption Price"), together with accrued interest to the Redemption Date.

On the Redemption Date, the Redemption Price of all the outstanding Debentures will become due and payable, and interest on the Debentures shall cease to accrue on and after said date. Payment of the Redemption Price, together with accrued interest to the Redemption Date, will be made upon presentation and surrender of the Debentures, with all coupons maturing after the payment date appertaining thereto, at the following offices:

Citibank (First National City Bank)
New York (corporate trust office), New York
London (city office), England
Brussels, Belgium
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Paris, France
Milan, Italy
Deutsche Bank (head office), Frankfurt, Germany

All coupons maturing on or prior to the Redemption Date should be detached and surrendered for payment in the usual manner.

Payment will be made (in the case of payment other than in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York) by check drawn on a dollar account with a bank in New York City or by a transfer to a dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in New York City.

DEERE & COMPANY
Successor Obligor to
John Deere Overseas Capital Corporation

Dated: May 9, 1977

SPORT

Cricket

Birkenshaw and Cliff defy the odds in a Worcestershire victory

John Woodcock, *Cricket Correspondent*

SIGNS: *Worcestershire* beat *Gloucestershire* by 10 wickets in a match which was a surprise to many. The weather was too good for the game and the match was played in the afternoon. The match was a surprise to many as Birkenshaw and Cliff were the only batsmen to score more than 10 runs. The match was a surprise to many as Birkenshaw and Cliff were the only batsmen to score more than 10 runs.

At mid-on, that was the first time that the batsmen had been out. The match was a surprise to many as Birkenshaw and Cliff were the only batsmen to score more than 10 runs. The match was a surprise to many as Birkenshaw and Cliff were the only batsmen to score more than 10 runs.

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Racing

Lupin tilt not ruled out for Blushing Groom

From Desmond Stoneham, *French Racing Correspondent*

Paris, May 8

The Aga Khan will release the name of the purchaser and all other relevant details about the sale of Blushing Groom later on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Blushing Groom, who is the current favourite for the Epsom Derby, is almost certainly bound for the United States, but will remain under the ownership and control of the Aga Khan until the end of his three-year-old career.

Although the Derby is the test likely to be the most important, it is not at present completely ruled out. If the colt goes for this race he will meet, among others, Caravaggio, the winner of the Prix de la Forêt, and Crystal Palace. Another Derby possibility, following his victory in the Prix Hocquart, is the 1975 Derby winner, the owner's husband, Alex Reid, said after the race that he would also leave Caravaggio and Crystal Palace in the hands of the Aga Khan. The impression that Moncomrou is the most likely to cross the finish line.

Lingfield Park and Leopardstown events cloud Derby picture

By Michael Seely

"Lord who fools these mortals be," declared Puck from the proscenium of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre on Saturday night, took these words rather personally. Several hours earlier, sitting in his hotel room glued to the box, I had watched Nigel Angus's (late sprinter, Future Forest, Coast Home) several lengths clear his nearest rival in the William Hill Scottish Handicap at Ayr carrying 9st 10lb. Having given a graphic preview forecast of this probable result in that morning's paper, I felt Oberon's bewitchment strike home rather forcibly, as Future Forest was the 1975 Derby and Oaks winner, Grundy and Jallieu, Martyn Caporelli is out of a mare by Warden II. With his customary shrewdness, Caporelli's selection of Gordon to me during Guineas week that he was going to leave his useful staying maiden winner in the Derby, at there were queries about the three-year-old's stamina limitations of the fancied candidates. In his heart of hearts, Pritchard-Gordon thinks that the selected colt will be more at home in the Irish Derby and the St. Leger. But he feels, after consulting Caporelli's owner, Dr. J. J. Harcourt, that the three-year-old may be allowed to take his chance.

To consider Caporelli's claims as a Derby candidate seriously, you have to discount the running of Garfield, who finished third on Saturday and fourth to Noble at Newmarket. But not less an expert on breeding than Pritchard-Gordon, Caporelli's chance of staying 12 furlongs before Saturday's race is with many trainers, Pritchard-Gordon is apt to use mooring expressions when describing his horses' chances. He points out that Caporelli was "flat to the boards" at halfway and that it was his staying power, not his speed that gained him his victory. But Caporelli is priced at 50-1 with Ladbrokes and might be a good chance of being a contender.

To attempt a serious analysis of the Derby before the Derby, the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Prix Lupin is like embarking on a game of blind man's bluff. At York on Wednesday, Tudor Jig (who has been well backed on the grounds that he can repeat his

Greig speaks of 'massive project'

The England captain, Tony Greig, yesterday issued a statement which could be connected with rumours that a new 'Test' side was being formed for an Australian tour.

Greig said: "There is a massive project involving many of the world's top players, due to commence in Australia this winter, as part of it, along with a number of English players, from details and implications of the scheme will be officially announced in Australia later this week. Until then, I am not prepared to say any more about it."

The Test and County Cricket Board have no knowledge of any such project, Greig said. He said that the project was a massive one, involving many of the world's top players, due to commence in Australia this winter, as part of it, along with a number of English players, from details and implications of the scheme will be officially announced in Australia later this week. Until then, I am not prepared to say any more about it."

Seattle Slew lives up to his billing

Louisville, Kentucky, May 7.—The heavily-favoured Seattle Slew, bought as a yearling for \$120,000, lived up to his good billing by running away with the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs today. Run by Dancer's Image, the colt, a half length in front of the field, won the 1 1/4 mile race in 1:59.4.

Seattle Slew, who paid odds of 1-2, ran second for a mile, pulled away in the stretch to win by a straight and then resisted the two fast-closing horses who finished behind him.

Ayr programme

2.15 NEWARK HANDICAP (3-y-o: £550: 5f)
2.45 SAUCHIE STAKES (2-y-o maidens: £118: 5f)
3.15 CUMOCK HANDICAP (£1,169: 1m 7f)
3.45 MONTROSE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,205: 1m 3f)
4.15 NEVER SAY DRY (4-y-o: £1,169: 1m 7f)

Windsor programme

5.40 MAR LODGE STAKES (Div 1: 3-y-o: £563: 1 1/4m)
6.10 BLUE CHARM STAKES (2-y-o: £560: 5f)
6.35 TORRIS HANDICAP (£467: 1 1/4m)
7.00 DUSTY MILLER HANDICAP (1968: 1m 3f 150yd)
7.30 CIVIL SERVANT (2-y-o: £560: 1 1/4m)

Nottingham NH programme

2.0 KILWING HURDLE (Div 1: Novices: £508: 2m)
2.30 BRAUNSTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £421: 2m 6f)
3.0 WHATTON HURDLE (Handicap: 4-y-o: £547: 2m)
3.30 OWLTHORPE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £732: 2m 6f)
4.0 BURLEY STEEPLECHASE (Novices: Handicap: £571: 3m)
4.30 KILWING HURDLE (Div 2: Novices: £515: 2m)

Gloucester v Glam

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Derbyshire v Lancashire

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SPORT

Golf

Ballesteros takes time off from the army to continue his march

From Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent
Le Touquet, May 8

Severiano Ballesteros won the French Open championship here today by three strokes in the most convincing fashion. Since the half-way stage it had been clear that the Spaniard was in charge and talk of a British threat in their supremacy was little more than whistling in the dark.

Military service has not much affected his position as the best player in Europe. There was a four-way tie for second place in which two other Spaniards, Pinerio and Garrido, were involved with Stanley, of Australia, and Bland of South Africa. The leading Briton was King, tied sixth with Edouochi on level par 288.

Ballesteros has been less out of much with golf than I had thought and he can now, I am assured, play as much as and wherever he likes. It will have given him special pleasure to be the first Spaniard to win the French Open since his uncle, Ramon Solis, 12 years ago.

He is expected in Britain for the Benson and Hedges, the match-play, and the Pentford but I shall be surprised if he stays for much more apart from the Open. The army, I understand, still have some claims on him but once that is likely to be followed up. His third place in the Spanish Open should have been a stronger indication of his status, but he faded away in Madrid.

The final round was played, as most of the others, in the rain. Ballesteros was in the lead, but the rain made the conditions more difficult, at least going out, for the leaders. There were no easy holes at the long opening holes. The short holes, especially the sixth with its obliquely set green, came into his own.

Antonio Garrido hit the kind of shot to it that Hogan might have struck—perfectly shaped, pin high to 100 in the cross-wind which caused several to miss the green by yards. Going out into a stiff breeze with moisture on the fairways, Barnes may for the first time have felt at disadvantage in length against Ballesteros, the man he was trying to catch. Unable to go for the first and

third greens, Barnes had to settle for five which he would not normally have been content to do.

Ballesteros went for both of the greens and made his birdies. He seemed amazed, such is his air of confidence, that his 130 putt had not dropped at the first for an eagle. He did not drop a single shot to par going out and a four at the hole of about 450 yards uphill with no helping wind, put him still further ahead.

Ballesteros's World Cup partner, Pinerio, took six at that hole. The only British player in contention to make four there was Horton, but he had already taken 41 to the turn and dropped out of the running. It was at the 10th that Ballesteros began to look safe in the saddle with a four-stroke lead over his two countrymen.

What had happened to the British effort? One could hardly call it a challenge. In the stiff wind that blew for the first nine holes, Barnes must have felt at a disadvantage today, specially since he was playing with Ballesteros. But he was also missing too many chances from inside eight feet, and it was this as much as his disability that started him sliding out of the picture.

Then it was a challenge which I didn't know whether I could take. It's like starting any new job. If you are an imaginative person you know how much it will require. Perhaps every single thing you do and then you find yourself doing it. You go about and to other world leaders and you realize that they have no more magic answer than you have. They, too, have to make an assessment of the problems, weigh everything in the balance, think "well now, how will this affect the lives of people and what can I justify doing?" You make the best judgment you can and after a time you realize that you can tackle the job.

Does the presence on the sidelines of the Conservative Party of such substantial figures as Edward Heath and Peter Walker still concern her? "You know, when we really get into the battle, the things which unite us are so great compared with the small differences of emphasis that divide us that it doesn't matter. I feel quite happy now that I sit where I am. I think I can cope and that does represent an increase in self-confidence. It does take longer for a woman to get it than for a man. I've often noticed the difference. Once you've got it it's there and I think it will stick."

"The challenge produces the adrenalin. The physical problem of having an exhausting schedule very rarely bothers me. The nervous problem does, because you wonder if you are allowing enough time to recharge the batteries?" It's helpful to have a scientist. If you have to think out solutions to the future you must observe what is going on. You must get the messages which people are trying to give you and not what you have made up your mind they are trying to say, not seeing what you've made up your mind you will see. That really is the essence of every scientific experiment. It's the difference between the person who has found the answer and the person who hasn't.

"I do sometimes say 'now, look, I must have a week-end off just to rest, just to go for a walk, so that I can clear my mind of preconceived notions, so that I can just talk with people. I'm very conscious of that because it is absolutely vital. I am always keeping in mind, when it comes to a general election, the danger is the point at which things snap and you've got to try to build in some safety valves. This is where the family are very good. In a family the person who knows you and can see that you are getting tense can take off the tension."

The current slogan on the left of the political spectrum is to build up Mrs Thatcher as a bogymon—better a bogymon, better a bogymon than a right-wing government under Margaret Thatcher. "Well, the idea of me as a bogymon is really absolutely absurd. When they try to set me up as that I really think that I must be pretty successful. The fact is that I have challenged trade union leaders and will continue to challenge them. 'Are you going to kill democracy by saying, publicly and openly, this general election is a mockery because we've got a certain trade union leader who's a bad person, not the way we are the government which the people support.'"

"We have to remember that when it comes to a general election they haven't got a big card vote. They've only got the same vote as I have, or the same vote as a housewife shopping in the supermarket. The same vote as the ordinary person working on the shop floor, the same vote that anyone has in this country, one vote. They also represent in their trade unions a lot of people who vote Conservative. They don't say to them 'you mustn't join my trade union if you're a Conservative', not a bit of it. They say 'we represent the person at work, whether it be in the shop, the office or the factory, we claim we are the biggest organisation representing them.'"

"Now that is their job. They may have personal political views, so do the people they represent have personal political views, but when it comes to Parliament they each have one vote and they must work with the government of the day, otherwise parliamentary democracy has collapsed in the country that was once the mother of Parliaments and which gave that system to the world. They know it, I know it, and they know that I know it. They've got a great deal to lose if they were ever to suggest that they would say 'government freely elected by the people from working and they

wouldn't do it, of that I am fairly certain. We are gradually trying to build up our contacts with them, not on a formal basis. Life is very much easier if you know the people you are talking to, if you've met them personally, very much easier than just talking to a person who has an official capacity. I think that this is one of the problems perhaps of modern life. You read a lot about people and you tend in your mind to build up an image not of a person but of an office or a job and you don't always realize until you meet them face to face that it is flesh and blood that fills that office and that job. And therefore I try to meet them personally and I hope that a number of their worries so when I do."

"When the election comes, whenever it comes, the gulf between the Conservatives and Labour parties can be seen to be a very wide one. There is an enormous difference in the approach between the two political philosophies. Just remember that Disraeli, the architect of modern Toryism, was contemporary with Karl Marx. They saw the same society and they approached it completely differently. To some extent the way they laid out can still be seen in the philosophy of the two parties. The socialist-Marxist doctrine is that there will be struggle and conflict between what Marx calls 'classes'. One day the proletariat will come to control everything. There is a clear economic system, one system, and everyone must subscribe to or acquiesce in that one system. It allows no variety, no free play of ideas, no variation. It allowed, if I might say so, for no change. It became rigid and it has become rigid."

Disraeli looked at things differently. He saw some people living well, others with few opportunities and living in conditions which none of us would like to live in if we have any respect at all for individual human beings and want them to have some sense of self-respect and some sense of human dignity. He started by regarding them each as human beings, each with different talents, representing a great variety. He regarded his job as pulling up the standards so that each and every person would have a chance to develop the talents within himself and would regard other people as having the same rights."

"What Marx was doing in the end, and I think socialism has adopted a lot of that philosophy, was to make everyone dependent upon the state and depend upon one view for their whole future. What we have always tried to do is to make everyone independent as self-reliant, as responsible as we can and to enable them to take decisions over their own lives so that you don't get one system, you get a great variety. We believe that you get the best out of society when you get a society of independent people, not a society with one view imposed from the top."

"We regard society as made up of an infinite variety of people, each with their own views. We are not entitled to impose one view on everyone. We are entitled to view 'we all have to live together and therefore we must have some general rules by which society has to survive', but those rules must be the sort which say all the decisions must be made democratically and then you must agree with them or you must operate them, but rules which say 'we'll only take a few decisions at the top which are necessary for us all to live together and then we'll leave as many of the rest of the decisions to be made by you.'"

"First, clash, conflict, is no part of my doctrine. It doesn't matter to me what people's background is, what matters to me is that they have to contribute. I recognize that many of them will think very differently. I am not entitled to tell them how to live any more than they are entitled to tell me how to live. I am not entitled to tell them to form co-operatives and live dependent upon one another, putting their earnings into a common pool, so be it, that is part of the variety of life to which we subscribe. But just because some of them want to live that way doesn't give them the right to impose that on all other people. Just because some people want to go to a comprehensive school doesn't give them the right to impose that system on all other people. The great, broad philosophical gulf. People and their decisions have a very much bigger significance and importance in my way of life and thinking than they have in a socialist state."

"You'll see it coming out now in the working of some of the economic institutions of the state. Under an incomes policy at the moment, and it's happened under two or three different governments, if you are not careful you are getting central bargaining by the state on behalf of everyone. It can't take account of the variety of difference between the different places of work, of the different effort which the workers in one particular company put in compared with another factory down the road."

If this were to go on there would be no room for having trade unions, because they would simply be appointing one or two people to negotiate with government, to tell their people the results. They would become the instruments of the state, not the bodies which represent their members to see that the infinite variety of circumstances, infinite variety of effort that you get, infinite variety of goods which they produce—some work at massive machines, some work with their hands, their skill and their craft—can be taken that into account."

"We don't believe in having all the economic power of the nation concentrated in the state. The nearer you get to that, the nearer you will get to diminishing and extinguishing what we regard as the essential freedom of all the economic power belongs to the state, that is to say you get more and more nationalized or controlled by the state, the indi-

Mrs Thatcher speaks her mind

by Brian Connell

When Mrs Thatcher gave me her first

extended interview for this page two years ago on the occasion of her election to the Conservative leadership there was an almost tangible atmosphere of apprehension to the proceedings—uncertainty about the attitudes of the media, the lowering presence on the back benches of the previous leader, and some of his colleagues. She had inherited the disarray of a party which had suffered its second successive electoral defeat, had thrown up half a dozen candidates to resolve its differences and was baffled by the arrogance of a government with slim majority intent on exercising power.

The contrast today is striking. Now it is the Government which is in disarray. Conservative ranks, with a few notable exceptions, have closed. Margaret Thatcher is a new person, serene, relaxed, imbued with certainty. The nervous downward glances of concentration have gone. The metroscopic cadences of thought and voice under iron control have melted into something much more like a good-humoured grin and the forward-leaning stance of confidence. The exposition is flowing and effortless. Does she feel this difference herself?

Then it was a challenge which I didn't know whether I could take. It's like starting any new job. If you are an imaginative person you know how much it will require. Perhaps every single thing you do and then you find yourself doing it. You go about and to other world leaders and you realize that they have no more magic answer than you have. They, too, have to make an assessment of the problems, weigh everything in the balance, think "well now, how will this affect the lives of people and what can I justify doing?" You make the best judgment you can and after a time you realize that you can tackle the job."

Does the presence on the sidelines of the Conservative Party of such substantial figures as Edward Heath and Peter Walker still concern her? "You know, when we really get into the battle, the things which unite us are so great compared with the small differences of emphasis that divide us that it doesn't matter. I feel quite happy now that I sit where I am. I think I can cope and that does represent an increase in self-confidence. It does take longer for a woman to get it than for a man. I've often noticed the difference. Once you've got it it's there and I think it will stick."

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"I do sometimes say 'now, look, I must have a week-end off just to rest, just to go for a walk, so that I can clear my mind of preconceived notions, so that I can just talk with people. I'm very conscious of that because it is absolutely vital. I am always keeping in mind, when it comes to a general election, the danger is the point at which things snap and you've got to try to build in some safety valves. This is where the family are very good. In a family the person who knows you and can see that you are getting tense can take off the tension."

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"Now that is their job. They may have personal political views, so do the people they represent have personal political views, but when it comes to Parliament they each have one vote and they must work with the government of the day, otherwise parliamentary democracy has collapsed in the country that was once the mother of Parliaments and which gave that system to the world. They know it, I know it, and they know that I know it. They've got a great deal to lose if they were ever to suggest that they would say 'government freely elected by the people from working and they

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Photograph by Robin Laurance

vidual man or woman hasn't the support to his own freedom. He may want to say and do as he wishes, but he knows that he's got nothing behind him."

"Total control over a man's means of support will ultimately mean control over his will. We are trying to disperse property among the people as widely as we can. I very much want every man and woman to be a capitalist, because then they will have the means to support their own decisions, the means to stand up to someone in authority and say: 'Look, you are wrong. I will never flout the law but I am going to try to change it and I am going to have the means to oppose you.'"

"The capitalist, western way of life produces a far higher standard of prosperity than countries behind the Iron Curtain. What they are trying to do is say one day we'll be as well off as the United States, and after 50 years that is still the zenith of their ambitions. So they don't produce the prosperity, and the reason they don't is because they have tried to get everything planned and they have robbed individual men and women of the incentive to effort. If you are told what to do, if you can't decide what to do for yourself, if by doing better you can't benefit your family, what incentive is there? You don't get the modern free play of ideas which is the dynamo to drive you forward, so you don't get the prosperity."

"It's the western way of life which we know produces the prosperity, but it also produces the freedom, the dignity, the self-respect. We don't have to fight for human rights, we have them. What we have to make sure of is that the western way of life, the prosperity that we all produce also gets to those who haven't the chance, who haven't had the opportunity. Our task is to try to enlarge the opportunities to see that they extend to everyone. The individual here for a purpose in life. That purpose is based on choice. He can't make those choices unless you relieve him, or try to relieve him, of the work of the evils of poverty and try to put him in decent living circumstances."

"It is such a different viewpoint. Ours regards the individual, the family, as being the supremely important thing, assuming that the responsibilities which we have as individuals apply to others and therefore we must consider one another, building up society on reciprocal obligations and mutual understandings. The other involves clash. Someone has to overcome someone else to get one system to which you all have to subscribe. It's a philosophy, but it's one which has far-reaching consequences for everyday policy."

What, I asked, does this boil down to in practical terms? Given that the defence of the realm is assured, with the armed forces and the police, which presumably means the best possible education service; the sick, which means the best possible health service; the old, which means the best possible provision for their pensions, but those in good health and in work, between 20 and 60, you would expect to find more for themselves and you would leave them with more of their earned income to enable them to do so."

"That is a fair encapsulation. The more people your political philosophy enables to be self-reliant and

prosperous by their own efforts, the fewer you have to look after. Because you give them incentives, the more resources you have to look after the fewer people. So it works both ways. My vision is to make as many of them as independent as we can, making their own decisions. I know that by doing that and by regarding the free play of ideas in research and development as part of our philosophy, they will produce the resources which enable us to continue on those who will never be able to look after themselves, or who need a little help to enable them to look after themselves. But it is far removed from that which states that there will always be more and more for the social services to do. If we run our vision properly there should be less and less for the social services to do, but there should be the means to enable them to do it really well."

The big question the country is asking is what sort of wages policy a Conservative government would sponsor. There is no substitute for responsible collective bargaining. The reason behind that is that if ever you sever, or discontinue, what a person is paid from the fruits of his labours you will not get the most out of his or her efforts. Most of us work for our families, work to give them a better chance, work to give them a higher standard, work to give them things which we wanted and didn't have."

"It is a very worthy, laudable purpose. But it means that you have got a connection between the effort you put in, the skill you have got, and what you get out. That is why I say, as far as possible, the only way I know to give that result, to enable people to see that if they work harder they get more—if they have more skill, they get more; if they take more responsibility, they get more and are left with more after tax."

"That still leaves you with other problems. We must not get into terms and we must not think there is a final solution to this. There is no final solution to any historical problem, there is only continually trying having to find the circumstances. You come up against large groups of people—teachers, nurses, you can't always judge by that particular criterion because you have to say how much have we made for the education health service or for the education service? You can set cash limits and there will be times when you manage to bargain within them and times when you have to make an exception, a special case."

"You will only ever come down to one answer in a democracy, which is what I've been trying to talk about all along. It requires responsibility on both sides, from those who are in the position of power and from those who are trying to get the best value for the skill which they have to offer. It means that sometimes if your salary levels go up you may have to say, 'well now can I do this work with fewer people, can I do this administration with fewer people, can I take three people where two would do, would it be better to pay two a far better wage for doing this work than it would be to pay three?' Now that means something else, that you've got to have enough expansion elsewhere in the system to take up, to provide jobs for those people. You get this expansion going not so much by state activity as by enabling this ingenuity, this resourcefulness to

work, by people who know what the needs are of the market, who say 'well now, there is no one making this, there is no one doing that service'. They start up on their own, they do well, they take on people, they create a demand for new machinery."

"The first thing that politicians had better learn is that people on the job know far more about the job than the politician. This also will apply to nationalized industries. There has been far too much interference with the nationalized industries. Sometimes people forget that one of the purposes of the socialist nationalizing everything was so that they could positively interfere. That isn't fair to the people working in the nationalized industries, whether they are working on the shop floor or managing them. I think they must have far more freedom, so long as they can manage their affairs without having to come to government and require a subsidy. If government says: 'look, we need to keep a particular railway line open', then they must pay out of the taxpayers' pool a particular amount for doing that, and then let it be run commercially as far as possible."

The purchase of council houses forms an essential part of Mrs Thatcher's plans for the economy. "Again, it fits in with my philosophy, first of trying to make people as independent as you can and, secondly, trying to get your property and ownership distributed as widely as you can. Therefore, we won't say 'we'll build council estates and everyone who lives on this estate must understand that they are going to rent this house for the rest of their lives.'"

"A person who goes in at a tenant can be told the options. If he says 'you want to buy this house, this will be the price; this is how you set about it, and you can buy it. Within 25 or perhaps 30 years, or if you've got a deposit to put down it may be less, that house will be yours. We'll be responsible for the maintenance.'"

"Perhaps you may not feel you can take the decision to buy it now, but if you would you like to take an option on buying it, paying say £1 a week, or £2 a week into a fund, you can have the option to buy it in, say, five years time. If you decide to buy it then you can use the money that's accumulated for a deposit. Or you can like rent it. Some people will always wish to rent. Some people will have to help because they are poor and they can't afford the rent, those we'll have to help. Some of them will live in council houses, some of them will live in private houses, but you subsidize the person not the house."

Mrs Thatcher's extensive tours abroad have given her a taste for foreign affairs. She would like to see a Conservative government play a more positive role in Europe than the present administration. "I don't think we have acted anything like energetic enough on some of our aspects of foreign policy. I know that some people will say that it was not that kind of Community, it was only an economic community. I never saw it like that. Europe to me has been the cradle and ideas of civilization, the ideas and ideas of parliamentary democracy, of human rights. This represents some kind of European vitality, whether it be in material things, whether it be in great art, in great culture, in architecture, in science and it must still be there."

OVERSEAS

Mr Young appears to have backed down over demand to meet Soweto leaders in South Africa

From Patrick Brown, Washington, May 8

The United States State Department has officially informed South Africa that Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, would like to visit the country on May 20. Mr Young, who will be going on to a United Nations conference on southern Africa in Mozambique, has been invited to meet students in Johannesburg.

The South African Government has made it clear it does not want Mr Young, though it may have to let him into the country out of deference to American opinion. He has constantly opposed Pretoria's apartheid policies and on one occasion claimed it was not a legitimate government. Later he suggested he would visit Soweto. Mr Young has always had the support of President Carter in his frequent diplomatic troubles and can probably still count on that.

The day before Mr Young's proposed visit, Mr Walter Mondale, the Vice-President, will be seen by Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, in Europe. Mr Mondale has been visiting the South African Government by the President.

Mr Young insists he is going ahead with the visit and it would seem the only way a diplomatic incident can be avoided would be for him to agree to limit his contacts in South Africa to people and institutions approved by the Government there.

South African newspapers said today that the latest diplomatic development in the controversy over Mr Young's planned visit was a victory for South Africa.

made by Washington, the visit would probably go ahead. Mr R. F. Euba, the Foreign Minister, has said the Government would make a decision in the matter by Tuesday at the latest.

The Johannesburg Sunday Express said Mr Young has assured the South African Government he would not seek meetings with black leaders from Soweto, although several of these leaders have appealed to the Government to authorise the visit.

Mr Young's original schedule was limited to meetings with white business leaders, such as Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation, and to a university lecture.

A report today quoted sources close to Mr Young in New York as saying the black envoy had agreed to stick to this and he would not meet any black leaders. Reuters and Agence France Presse.

Argentine minister is paralysed by bullet

From Andrew Tarnowski, Buenos Aires, May 8

Vice-Admiral Cesar Guzzetti, the Argentine Foreign Minister, today was reported to be showing signs of paralysis after an assassination attempt yesterday by left-wing guerrillas.

The minister, aged 52, was under intensive care at the Buenos Aires police hospital where he had a three-hour operation to remove from his head splinters of a 9mm bullet immediately after the attack. According to the Navy, the attack was carried out by the neo-Fascist Montoneros guerrillas.

Official information was kept to a minimum and military sources said the latest medical

bulletin noted "certain signs of progressive paralysis" in the right side of his speech. There was no confirmation of reports that the minister might have a second operation.

Unofficial versions said the attack was made by a man and a woman who were waiting for Vice-Admiral Guzzetti when he arrived for his regular Saturday visit to a private clinic. They were said to have overpowered two doctors and two nurses, who were waiting for him, and then shot him in the head, using a pillow to smother the sound.

The guerrillas then, apparently, walked out of the clinic, leaving the minister's unsuspecting bodyguards.

Britons living in Uganda are 'closely watched'

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi, May 8

Britons in Uganda have been told they are being closely watched by President Amin, and are warned that they are being closely watched.

The warning was given in a comment broadcast by Uganda radio, which also commented on the acting Ugandan representative's warning that the British are being closely watched. The warning was given in a comment broadcast by Uganda radio, which also commented on the acting Ugandan representative's warning that the British are being closely watched.

ent sovereign state. "It is difficult to work with the British people because they are working for the downfall of Uganda," the spokesman added.

He said that this applied to the British in Uganda, who were being closely watched. President Amin has attacked Ugandan doctors and university lecturers, who have fled the country in recent months. He has also said that all Ugandans were free to leave.

According to the radio, 37 Ugandan doctors have fled, presumably from the purges which came after the overthrow of the late President Amin.

British diplomats find a Tory champion

The Diplomatic Service, now threatened by loss of independent status as a result of an inquiry by the Government, "think tank" has found a champion in Mr Peter Ripston, Conservative MP for Horsham and Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

He told the annual conference of the Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council in London: "Precisely because of our reduced power in the world, we need as strong a foreign service as possible to defend and advance British interests." Mr Ripston's warning that the dangers of tampering with the Diplomatic Service came during a debate on Africa in which the importance of British and American diplomatic initiatives were emphasized. Reminding the conference of the 370 members of the service who were trying to resolve African problems, he said:

"I would say that our professional diplomats are unsurpassed by any foreign service in the world. Because of their skill, technical knowledge and strenuous endeavours, often in disagreeable and even dangerous surroundings, Britain's influence and standing in many areas more considerable than our economic and military strength will justify."

Tanzanians told some leaders 'old drunkards'

Dar es Salaam, May 8.—Old, incapable, drunken and lazy leaders in Tanzania must be replaced by younger, bloodier, according to President Julius Nyerere.

In a speech yesterday to elders of Tanzania's new ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Dr Nyerere said it would be tragic if old and incapable leaders clung to their positions. The president was quoted by the Government newspaper as saying: "I am very serious on this. The people know that some of our present leaders are incapable, lazy, drunkards and that some of them are even collaborating with the enemy. These must go."

The Australian Cabinet, meeting in emergency session, decided to refer the strike to the Arbitration Commission which handles industrial disputes.

Both sides deploy Bowmen in Shaba

From Richard Wigg, Kinshasa, May 8

The Zaire Government said today that large contingents of bowmen were being deployed to the Shaba province, where a "patriotic" war against the rebels was being waged.

The radio announcement said that the bowmen were being deployed to the Shaba province, where a "patriotic" war against the rebels was being waged.

The founder of the Jamaat-ul-Islami, he is the ultimate "ideas man" of Pakistan's nine-party right-wing opposition National Alliance, which has been trying for the past two months to oust Mr Bhutto as Prime Minister.

But such stern Islamic principles and Jamaat-ul-Islami's object is to make Pakistan a "truly Islamic state". The manifesto declared: "The people who win elections by means of bribery, deceit, fraud, intimidation, official interference or other corrupt practices are, in fact, usurpers of power and enemies of democracy. Such phrases have become the small change of Opposition slogans in the streets during the past two months."

The law we have received from God is that the people should rule; those guilty of capital crimes; those guilty

Islamic leader proposes one drastic solution to the continued growth of crimes of violence in West

From Richard Wigg, Lahore, May 8

If the West really wants to solve its growing crime rate, it should cut off the hand of a robber and, as happened in Saudi Arabia recently, a man found guilty of rape should be publicly stoned to death. This is the view of the Maulana Abdul Ala Maudoodi, an Islamic scholar, and friend of the late King Faisal.

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The critic Pakistan spared from jail

From Richard Wigg, Lahore, May 8

should be stoned to death in public. Anyone who desires to rape a woman should know what will be his end, so that he can go to God cleansed and without this burden," the Maulana told me today at his home in Lahore, a city still under Army-imposed curfew.

The status of the Maulana is odd. Mr Bhutto has talked with him in efforts to establish links with the imprisoned leaders of the alliance. As a "man of God" the Maulana has been left at liberty. "I am not directing this movement, sometimes the leaders take my advice," was how he explained it.

"Jamaat-ul-Islami is not a right-wing or a left-wing movement. Our only programme is to be real Muslims and practice what we preach," the Maulana said. "Islam is a complete way of life. It suggests a democratic type of government, with the condition that democracy should recognize God as the sovereign and Muhammad as his prophet."

He said that if the Army failed to disperse the crowd in the Anarkali bazaar,

Bhutto call for speedy talks with Opposition

From Our Own Correspondent, Lahore, May 8

Mr Bhutto, sensing the unpopularity of the nearly total curfew when he visited Lahore today, called on the Opposition leaders to get down to speedy negotiations with his Government.

He announced that four Cabinet ministers would, within a couple of days, visit Sialkot, near Islamabad, where the Opposition leaders are imprisoned, to try to reach a preliminary agreement on limiting the negotiations to basic matters.

Mr Bhutto would not list these himself and refused to pledge himself to holding a new general election. But he left the matter open, as a possible result of successful negotiations.

One of the Opposition's demands for the setting up of a new election commission, is already on the way to being conceded. Mr Bhutto today granted immediate leave to Mr Justice Sajjad Ahmed Jan, the Chief Commissioner, to "go abroad for ulcer treatment".

Chinese industry to concentrate on export goods

From David Bonavia, Hongkong, May 8

Contrary to some reports, China has not set its sights on overtaking the United States economically in a foreseeable future. However, a senior official has spoken in Peking about the need for a much more concerted effort to modernize the country's industries in line with certain principles.

Mr Yu Chiu-lai, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic planning, told the National Industrial Conference in Peking last week that priority should be given to the development of oil, coal, transport, iron and steel, chemical fertilizers, cement, electric power, tractors and cotton textiles.

This suggests a pronounced orientation on export in the Chinese economy over the next decade, as oil and coal are among China's most readily marketable natural resources, but the transport system is not yet adequate to cope with a great expansion.

Mr Yu did not, as reported by some Western organs, promise that China would catch up with America within the next half century. He said that Chairman Mao Tse-tung had suggested 21 years ago that this should be possible, but that Chou En-lai, who was Prime Minister until his death last year, had defied this concept as one of putting the Chinese economy in the front ranks of the world by the end of the century.

Mr Nixon's version 'distorting truth'

New York, May 8.—Mr Leon Jaworski, the former Watergate special prosecutor, says former President Nixon distorted the truth in his television interview with David Frost last week.

Mr Nixon had full knowledge of the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building and was an active conspirator in obstructing justice, Mr Jaworski writes in the current issue of Newsweek magazine.

To say that mistakes were made is "not enough," he writes. "To deny impeachable acts and criminal wrongdoing is untruthful." Mr Nixon, in the interview, distorted the evidence of tape recordings made on March 21, 1973, and June 23, 1972, just after the break-in.

The March 21 conversation clearly shows that Nixon had full knowledge of the break-in and was an active conspirator in the obstruction of justice then in progress," he writes.

In the June 23 tape, "the President was trying to divert the FBI from conducting its investigation of the facts by switching the matter to the CIA on grounds of national security."

Mr John Ehrlichman, a former Nixon aide and a principal figure in the Watergate cover-up, said Mr Nixon's version of the affair was "a smarmy, maudlin rationalization that will be tested and found false."

Commenting in New West magazine on the Frost interview, Mr Ehrlichman says Mr Nixon offered him "a huge sum of money" the day he was dismissed because of the Watergate scandal, but he declined it.

Mr Ehrlichman is serving 30 months to eight years in a Federal prison camp in Arizona for obstructing a Watergate grand jury investigation.

He challenges Mr Nixon on a number of points leading up to the announcement of the resignation of his senior White House staff on April 30, 1973. "When I arrived at Aspin Lodge on April 30 to be fired, it was obvious the President had been crying," Mr Ehrlichman writes.

"He offered me a huge sum of money. I declined it. He told me over and over that my judgment had been correct. . . . I asked him why I was being fired. He did not reply. I then said I had only one last request: that some day he explain it to my children. He did not reply."—Reuters.

400 injured in protest over new airport

Nerima, Japan, May 8.—Four hundred people, including 110 police, were reported injured here today when left-wing demonstrators hurled petrol bombs and threw petrol missiles at riot police in protest against the new Tokyo international airport.

The clashes erupted after almost 4,000 farmers, left-wingers and other protesters, facing an equal number of police, met for a rally after the demolition last Friday of steel towers they had built in 1971 and 1972 near the airport's main runway.

The towers had prevented aircraft from landing or taking off at the airport, which is 40 miles from Tokyo.

In one violent incident today, demonstrators loaded a truck with petrol bombs, set them ablaze and sent them heading towards police units. One of the cars crashed into a

Chinese industry to concentrate on export goods

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Athens court jails Briton on drug charges

Athens, May 8.—An Athens civil court last night sentenced Donald Frank Cole, aged 45, a journalist from Erit, Kent, to four years and three months in prison for drug offences.

Pleading guilty, Mr Cole said that he had bought hashish in Afghanistan and wanted to take it to Britain. Last July, Athens police found about 21b worth of hashish in his car.

He told the court that during his detention he had been cured and was no longer a drug addict. He denied that he had intended to sell the hashish.—Reuters.

Crew overpower hijacker on Honolulu flight

Tokyo, May 8.—A hijacker who tried to seize an aircraft of the American North-West Airlines during a flight from Tokyo to Honolulu today was overpowered, airport authorities said.

The hijacker, whose nationality was not immediately known, was reported to have told the pilot to fly to Moscow, but a member of the crew subdued him. The airliner was carrying 266 people.

The airliner returned to Tokyo because the hijacker had been injured, the spokesman added. There were no reports of other injuries.—Reuters.

Djibouti independence vote

Djibouti, May 8.—Voting began slowly under a merciless sun today in a referendum on independence for France's last colonial possession in Africa, the territory of the Afars and Issas (Djibouti).

The result is a foregone conclusion. France has already set June 27 as Independence Day when the strategic territory in the Horn of Africa, with an estimated population of 215,000, will become a republic.

Elections for a National Assembly were held at the same time as the referendum vote today. French officials reported a turnout of about 35 per cent of the 103,000 voters (104° F).—Reuters.

Former Greek minister to resume political role

From Mario Modiano, Athens, May 8

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the former liberal Minister of Finance, has announced his intention to resume political activities, this time on a national scale, because he believes that political developments in Greece are heading towards a dangerous impasse.

Mr Mitsotakis, who is 58, played a key role in the dramatic downfall of the Papandreu Cabinet, of which he

was a senior member, in 1965. His colleagues have since treated him as an apostate, but they acknowledge him as a gifted politician.

He told a press conference yesterday that he did not propose to form a new political party. What was needed, he said, was unity among the vast democratic majority of Greeks who keep away from the extremes. Clearly, he was offering himself as an alternative for leadership.

Third World Report

Efforts to take politics out of family planning

From Juan de Onis, Recife, May 8

A private family planning organization, Benfam, is extending birth control into impoverished rural areas of Brazil's heavily-populated north-east region despite the Brazilian Government's ambiguous policy on the issue.

Benfam's programme of freely distributing contraceptive pills among thousands of women in the states of Pernambuco, Paraiba, Rio Grande do Norte and Alagoas, is challenging traditional attitudes on family size, sexual customs and relations between men and women.

The biggest obstacle, according to a Rio de Janeiro social worker on the programme, is the Latin American tradition of machismo, which expresses itself in men who want their families to have large families as a demonstration of fidelity. Katalin Gabriela Maria Oser is in charge of training local women volunteers as educators and distributors.

Brazil, where up to two of every 10 children die by the age of four from endemic disease and malnutrition. Benfam—affiliated to the Inter-American Planned Parenthood Federation—has, however, found local allies.

Dr Pedro Veloso Costa, Secretary of Public Health of Pernambuco, has extended Benfam's programme to all 1,064 municipalities in the state, while many local officials and villagers have volunteered to help implement it.

"Nobody can continue having the numerous families of 10 to 15 children that we used to have in the North-East," Dr Veloso Costa said. "It is in the interest of the parents, the children and the community that the population explosion be controlled."

The Brazilian Government does not oppose the right of people to plan the size of their families, but it regards the issue as politically sensitive and does not sponsor birth control programmes.

The lack of a federal family planning policy is attributed to political opposition from the Roman Catholic hierarchy and to the view of some nationalists that Brazil should rapidly increase its population to occupy empty areas for security reasons.

Dr Wilson Rodriguez, the executive secretary of Benfam, applies a different criterion to the problem of uncontrolled families among the poorest half of the population, emphasizing the public health consequences of an estimated 500,000 abortions each year and the effect on children of malnutrition and disease.

"Eventually, the Government will have to assume responsibility," Dr Rodriguez, a professor of obstetrics, said. "What Benfam is doing is intended to make family planning politically acceptable."

In Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte, the gain in political acceptance is evident in the support given the organization's work by nearly all the mayors.

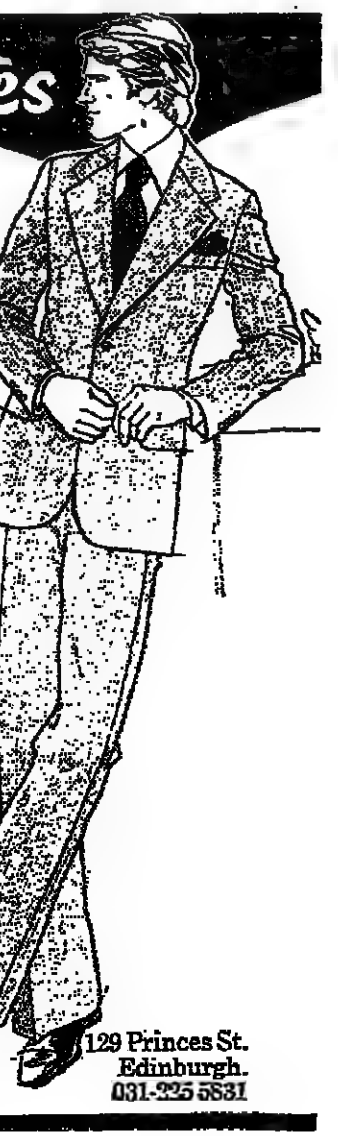
One of them, Senhor Manuel

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From The Times of Thursday, May 8, 1952

Korea prisoners. One point, and only one point, now separates the negotiations for a Korean armistice from final failure. The point is, as General Ridgway made plain yesterday, the repatriation of prisoners of war. The Communists insist that the armistice is largely a matter of procedure. They hold that some 137,000 prisoners of war, more than half have informed their

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

Account Days: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, May 20. \S Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

STOCKS	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Market									
COMMON STOCKS																		
Alcoa	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Can.	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Oil	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Steel	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Sugar	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Tobacco	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Water	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Zinc	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
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Am. Chemical	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Pharmaceutical	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
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Am. Space Exploration	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Biotechnology	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
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Am. Cybersecurity	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Cloud Computing	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Big Data	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Internet of Things	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Augmented Reality	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
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Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00	101.00	99.00	100.00	101.00	100	100										
Am. Blockchain	100.00	+1.00																

Appointments Vacant

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require a chartered/professional civil engineer/architect for the position of Manager (Facilities Planning).

The applicants must be Pakistani Nationals, below 40 and have 10 years professional experience, preferably in Planning and development of airports and airline-related facilities. The experience requirement is relaxable in case of candidates possessing exceptional qualifications and relevant experience.

Attractive salary with usual airline benefits will be offered. Applications along with a recent passport size photograph and copies of testimonials should be sent to:

Employment Manager, Pakistan International Airlines, Karachi Airport, Pakistan.



Great prospects with PIA

MARKET INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Consumers' Association, publishers of the Which? magazine, needs a Market Intelligence Officer. You will be responsible for the research and administration of a number of projects in the updating section of the Unit. This particular project must be kept under continuous review at stated intervals by telephone and record maintenance.

You should be educated to "O" level standard at least, with sound, accurate typing, be methodical in your approach, and be able to work well with others, often under pressure. A good telephone manner is vital. Salary will be not less than £2,111 p.a. and generous fringe benefits include lunchtime vouchers, five weeks holiday, interest free loans for season tickets and an excellent pension and life assurance scheme.

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GENERAL VACANCIES

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637 9922

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MANAGEMENT TRAINING - We are offering a management training course for young people. The course is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of business management, including the preparation of accounts, correspondence, and general office management. Salary £2,000 p.a. + bonuses. Please write to: Mr. V. Hills, Kandya Meredith Ltd., 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS.

THE TIMES - Times Book, requires a Chartered Accountant. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of accounts, correspondence, and general office management. Salary £2,000 p.a. + bonuses. Please write to: Mr. V. Hills, Kandya Meredith Ltd., 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS.

ANSCOMBE & RINGLAND require a Chartered Accountant. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of accounts, correspondence, and general office management. Salary £2,000 p.a. + bonuses. Please write to: Mr. V. Hills, Kandya Meredith Ltd., 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS.

RESIDENT ACCOUNTANT - We are seeking a resident accountant for a small firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of accounts, correspondence, and general office management. Salary £2,000 p.a. + bonuses. Please write to: Mr. V. Hills, Kandya Meredith Ltd., 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS.

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